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ARAB TIMES

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NO. 7498 MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1989 RAJAB 28, 1409 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Baghdad starts clearing Shatt Al Arab

Iraq ready to swap POWs immediately

BAGHDAD, March 5, (AP) President Saddam Hussein said today that Iraq is ready to repatriate all the Iranian prisoners of war if Tehran agrees to free all the Iraqis it holds, Baghdad Radio reported.

The state-run radio quoted Saddam as saying that the POW swap could be carried out immediately outside the stalled peace negotiations between the two countries to end the eight-year-old Gulf war.

In a related development, Iraqi port authority officials in the southern city of Basra said today that Iraq has started clearing wrecked ships and war debris from its half of the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway, the southern boundary between Iraq and Iran.

Reasons
Baghdad Radio quoted Saddam as saying at a meeting with Hans Coshier, president of the Vienna-based International Progress Organisation, a human rights group, that Iraq is fully ready to start a total exchange of prisoners with Iran.

A comprehensive POW exchange would be a major breakthrough that could break the deadlock in implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, the basis for the six-month-old ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Blamed
But a full exchange has been held up because of the deadlock in the peace talks. The International Committee of the Red Cross has registered 50,812 prisoners held by Iran and 19,284 Iraqis in Iraqi hands. But UN and other officials estimate the total number of POWs to be around 100,000.

Iraq yesterday blamed Iran for the deadlock in the peace talks and accused it of backing off an agreement that a joint military group should consolidate the ceasefire.

Iraqi officials in Basra said in telephone interviews that work started earlier this week to clear the Shatt, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf.

They said clearing operations were underway along nine miles (15 kms) of the waterway running south from Maqal, Basra's main commercial harbour before the war, to lift sunken ships, unexploded ordnance and silt accumulated during the war.

Waiting
Iraq has demanded that the 120-mile (190-km) waterway be cleared by the UN without waiting for the outcome of the peace talks.

Iran refused to co-operate unless Baghdad recognised the 1975 treaty. However, Iraq's official media reported on Thursday that Saddam ordered clearing operations to start in the part of the waterway under Iraqi control so shipping could start using it as soon as possible.

Salvage officials have estimated it could take several years to clear the whole of the waterway, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.



Hundreds of trucks carrying food and supplies arrived in Kabul yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Afghan rebels seek recognition

ISLAMABAD, March 5, (Reuters) A delegation representing Pakistan-based Afghan rebels left for Tehran today at the start of a mission to seek recognition for their newly-formed government-in-exile, guerrilla sources said.

Radical guerrilla party leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was leading the team which would also visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries ahead of an Islamic foreign ministers meeting later this month, the sources said.

A guerrilla spokesman said that while in Tehran, Hekmatyar would try to patch up differences with Afghan guerrilla groups based in Iran.

Fighting
A consultative council of the seven main Pakistan-based rebel parties chose what they call an interim government in February after nearly two weeks of feuding between Muslim fundamentalists and moderates and a boycott by eight smaller groups in Iran.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said last week the guerrilla demand for international recognition was premature.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by official television, said today Islamabad was considering the demand and the group could be recognised at the "appropriate time".

Guerrilla sources said Hekmatyar met Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan yesterday with a request that Islamabad take an initiative in according recognition.

Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Algeria and Jordan were some of the other countries Hekmatyar's delegation would visit.

Succeed
"We hope that, with the backing of our Syrian brothers, our efforts would succeed," Sabah told reporters at Damascus airport.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said that Assad assured Sheikh Sabah of Syria's backing to the committee's work.

Syria has been a main power broker in Lebanon since 1976, when Damascus sent in thousands of troops to halt sectarian warfare.

Sabah said the committee was preparing for a mid-March meeting in Kuwait grouping 30 Lebanese Christian and Muslim militia and political leaders. Political sources said another Kuwaiti envoy will visit Beirut tomorrow to further pursue the committee's efforts.

The Arab League committee has already held separate talks with Christian and Muslim clerics and the heads of Lebanon's rival Christian and Muslim administrations.

The initial contacts have failed to produce an agreement. Gen. Michel Aoun, the Lebanese Army commander who became head of an East Beirut-based military cabinet after the

Amir sends message to Syrian President

Sabah holds talks with Assad on Lebanon crisis

BEIRUT, March 5, (Agencies) The head of an Arab League committee involved in efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis held talks in Syria today in preparation for a conference grouping rival leaders of Lebanon, Damascus Radio said.

The radio said Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who heads the Arab League committee, met Syrian President Hafez Assad today and later left for Saudi Arabia.

Sabah delivered a written message from HH the Amir of Kuwait to Assad dealing "particularly with the Lebanese affair," the radio said.

The committee, made up of the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Algeria, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan and the UAE and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, was formed after Lebanon's rival factions failed to elect a new head of state in September to replace President Amin Gemayel.

Authority
The Muslims want a bigger share of power, including the curtailment of the authority of the presidency — an office held by a Christian Maronite in line with Lebanon's unwritten national covenant.

Reflecting the existing differences between Lebanon's Christian and Muslim communities, a Druze Muslim militia leader said he was withdrawing his initiative to repatriate displaced Christians to the Druze-controlled Shouf mountains.

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, addressing a news conference in the town of Mukhtara, 15 miles (24 km) southeast of Beirut, said the killers of his top security aide Anwar Al Fayatey were being harboured in Christian East Beirut.

Stop
Aoun, today ordered Lebanon's tiny Navy to stop all foreign ships from entering militia-run ports in a fresh move against private armies.

An official statement said the order, which takes effect tomorrow, was an attempt to restore government authority that has been eroded by 14 years of civil war.

The statement said Aoun reactivated a maritime office, paralyzed since the civil war broke out in 1975, to supervise Lebanon's 160-mile-long (170-kilometre) Mediterranean coastline and ordered the Navy to help enforce the ban on illegal harbours.

Hoss, warned that Aoun's move could trigger new tensions "because of unilateral decisions taken without prior co-ordination."

New treatment for diabetes
EAST BERLIN, March 5, (Reuters) East German doctors have discovered a promising new treatment for juvenile diabetes involving transfusions of white blood cells, the East Berlin newspaper Berliner Zeitung said.

It said a team from East Berlin's special hospital for internal medicine found sufferers from the type of diabetes which mainly affects young people lacked suppressor cells.

The deficiency caused insulin-producing cells to be destroyed by white blood cells, or lymphocytes, belonging to the victim's own immune system.

Doctors in laboratory tests added healthy lymphocytes from direct relatives of the patients to the sufferers' own lymphocytes to correct the deficiency.

Elucidating, he said, such

Arafat proposed talks with Shamir, says Israeli official

OCCUPIED, Jerusalem, March 5, (AP) PLO chief Yasser Arafat has proposed talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and indicated a willingness to demilitarise the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of a Middle East peace settlement, a government official said today.

Arafat was quoted as making the statements last month in Tunis, saying he would accept UN or multinational forces in the occupied territories, once they became an independent state, instead of maintaining his own troops there.

The Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed a report published by the Haaretz daily. He said the comments were made to US Congressman Wayne Owens, a Utah Democrat, and passed on to Israel as part of "routine reports" about the United States' three-month dialogue with the PLO.

Owens was not immediately available for comment.

Wanted
The Israeli official said Arafat told the congressman that he wanted to meet with mainstream Israeli leaders like Shamir and Finance Minister Shimon Peres, head of Israel's Labour Party.

A spokesman for Shamir said the prime minister would not meet with Arafat under any condition.

"These are useless efforts from the start. Nothing will move Shamir to speak with Arafat, with the people of terror," said spokesman Yossi Ahimeir.

No spokesman for Peres was available, but his Labour Party, like Shamir's Likud Bloc, has an official policy of not talking to the PLO.

News of Arafat's message came as the Israeli government intensified a diplomatic campaign to try to halt the talks between Washington and the PLO.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor said today that the continuation of these contacts despite attempts by Palestinian commanders to infiltrate Israel last week from Lebanon was a test of US credibility in the Middle East.

Arafat told Owens, when they met three weeks ago, that he had personally approved of these talks and that he sought to widen them to include higher-ranking officials, the Israeli official said.

Soeak
"I am interested in speaking not only with Ratz, Mapam and Rakah," Arafat was quoted as saying, referring to three left-wing parties in Israel's Parliament. "I want also to speak with Shamir, Peres. The Israelis have to decide who represents them."

As long as the contacts with Israelis continue, "we are achieving progress," Arafat was also quoted as saying.

The PLO chief was also quoted as saying he sought superpower guarantees to back up a directly-negotiated peace agreement with Israel, but that the direct talks would be held only after an international peace conference was convened.

He also listed nine topics that were open to negotiation with Israel. These were: borders, security, Jewish settlements, the Palestinian refugees, access to water resources, arranging for a corridor between Gaza and the West Bank, labour and military issues and joint investments.

Referring to a proposal made recently by Defence Minister Rabin, Arafat said he would agree to municipal elections in the occupied territories only after the Israeli Army withdrew from the area, the Israeli official said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Honour financial commitments: PLO

KUWAIT, March 5, (AP) The Palestine National Fund today called on all Arab states to honour their commitments to extend financial support to the Palestinian uprising.

A statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting at the Palestinian "embassy" in Kuwait, chaired by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, referred to the decision by the pan-Arab summit of June 1988 in Algeria.

At the Algiers summit, the Arabs promised a lumpsum grant of \$128 million for the intifada, and a monthly payment of \$43 million for as long as the uprising continued. Some PLO officials in late 1988 said only a third of the money has been paid.

Requirements
"The fund also urges Arab and Islamic peoples to increase their support to the intifada which has started to have its impact on the enemy (Israel) itself and the international arena," the statement said.

"The fund will do its utmost within its capabilities to meet all requirements of the Palestinian people in such a manner that enables them to continue their uprising," it added.

The statement gave no details, but PLO sources said that one of the key results of the meeting was a series of recommendations for raising funds to cushion a deficit in the PLO's budget caused by the ever-increasing financial burden in the occupied territories, and the failure of a number of Arab countries to pay their summit-decided contributions.

Complained
A programme for Palestinian financial interdependence has also been endorsed by the fund, the sources added. A PLO official, who asked that his name be withheld, called it a "self-reliance approach" and said that Palestinians outside the occupied territories would "financially support their brethren inside the occupied lands."

The fund is the equivalent of a Palestinian finance ministry. Taking part in the meetings were a number of PLO executive committee members and Sheikh Abdel Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, a parliament-in-exile.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- سیاسی جماعتیں مضامین کا جذبہ اختیار کریں، صدر اسحاق
- ہم باہمی مصالحت میں یقین رکھتے ہیں، بے نظیر بھٹو
- الجزائر کی مسلح افواج سیاست میں حصہ نہیں لیں گی
- سودان میں فوج نے وزیر اعظم کو مہلت دے دی
- افغانستان میں جنگی حالات جلد ختم کر دی جائیں گی
- عراق پاکستان اور بھارت کا دورہ کریں گے

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be slightly above normal with light variable northerly wind.

State of sea: slight
High water: 11.00 am, 10.00 pm
Low water: 5.00 am, 5.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.51 pm
Sunset: 5.51 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 25°C 77°F
Fahaka: 24°C 75°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 12°C 54°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Fahaka: 13°C 55°F

Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F
Ahmad: 26°C 79°F
Fahaka: 25°C 77°F

Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 51 per cent
Ahmad: 70 per cent
Fahaka: 72 per cent

Sri Lanka wants new agreement with India

COLOMBO, March 5, (AP) The Sri Lankan government has sent India a proposal that would supersede a 1987 accord designed to end the Tamil insurrection in Sri Lanka, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

Indian officials in New Delhi and Colombo, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they did not know of any proposal.

The draft, does not mention the Tamil revolt against Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority or the Indian peacekeeping troops who were sent to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil guerrillas and enforce the 1987 accord.

Pledged
But by superseding the 1987 accord, the proposal appeared designed to bring about the withdrawal of the Indian troops, whose departure has been demanded by both Tamil rebels and Sinhalese militants. India has already said it would withdraw its troops, but no target date has been announced.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka, who took office two months ago, pledged during his election campaign to end India's military involvement in his nation's ethnic turmoil. He said the 1987 accord would be replaced by a friendship treaty.

A copy of the draft, which was marked "secret," said: "This agreement shall supersede the agreement contained in the exchange of letters between the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India dated July 29, 1987."

Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the clause was aimed at ending the 1987 "Indo-Sri Lanka agreement to establish peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka."

The proposed friendship agreement also says neither India nor Sri Lanka would permit its territory to be used as a base from which terrorist acts could be launched against the other. Before the 1987 accord was signed, Tamil guerrillas ran training camps in India, which has a politically powerful Tamil minority of 60 million.

Rushdie row scuttled British hostages deal

NEW YORK, March 5, (Reuters) An almost-completed deal for the release of three British hostages held in Beirut was shattered by Iran's order to kill author Salman Rushdie, Newsweek reported yesterday.

An Iranian envoy was due in London to close the deal the day Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the British author executed, the magazine said in its March 13 edition released yesterday.

"Word in London is that the British had an agreement with Yasser Arafat for the PLO to pay off the Lebanese kidnappers," the news magazine said in a brief story quoting political sources.

It said the secret deal was behind London and Washington's initial "low-key" response to Khomeini's threats last month

Home-brewed liquor kills 50 in India

NEW DELHI, March 5, (UPI) At least 50 people died and more than 50 others required hospitalisation after consuming bootleg liquor in western Gujarat state, where alcohol is banned, the Press Trust of India said today.

The news agency, in a dispatch from the Gujarat town of Baroda, southwest of New Delhi, said that most of the victims were employed as vegetable sellers and vendors of other essential goods by the city's municipal corporation and that they included the son of a reputed bootlegger.

The victims began guzzling home made brew known as "lattha" yesterday morning and as the day progressed, they became afflicted by dizziness, lethargy and blindness and at least 13 died, it said.

Tragedy
The tragedy came to light when the relatives of one of the dead were intercepted by police as they tried to cremate the body, the news agency said.

Police in loud speaker-equipped vehicles then drove through the victims' neighbourhood appealing to anyone who had consumed the spurious moonshine to seek medical treatment.

Some 90 people were admitted to a local hospital with poison and by this evening, 37 more had died the Press Trust said.

It said three men suspected of brewing the drink were taken into custody.

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWS IN BRIEF

هکدامین اصل

Cyprus talks to open amid doubts

NICOSIA, March 5. (Reuters): UN-sponsored talks to end the 14-year division of Cyprus enter an intensive phase tomorrow despite deep differences and doubts whether agreement can be reached.

President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş will meet at the residence of the UN representative in a buffer zone running across Cyprus, a UN spokesman said.

"The talks are not going anywhere at all. When you analyse things, there is no common ground. You find out how big the difference is," a Greek-Cypriot political analyst told Reuters.

Progress

"I'm not saying there's no hope, just that there is very little," he added.

"But if it (the negotiating process) fails this time it's going to be very hard to begin again, the analyst said. "I don't think anyone will dare say 'let's restart negotiations'."

The search for a Cyprus settlement opened six months ago but has made little progress other

than an exchange of position papers. A target date of June 1 set by the United Nations for an agreement seems unrealistic to most observers.

Vassiliou and Denktaş decided to meet 10 times in just over three weeks from Monday for off-the-record discussions after UN officials were reported disappointed at the slow headway.

Cyprus is divided by ceasefire lines set in 1974 when Turkey invaded the northern third of the island after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Turkish Cypriots declared the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus in 1983. Turkey, with an estimated 29,000 troops on the island, is the only country to recognise it.

Preparations for tomorrow's talks were threatened when Denktaş objected to statements last week by Vassiliou who told British parliamentarians in London that the discussions would be substantive but there was a basic conceptual difference between Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot views.

Generals pledge support to constitution

Mahdi to form new government

KHARTOUM, March 5. (Reuters): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said today he would stay on despite an earlier threat to resign and announced the formation of a new broad-based government.

He told a news conference he had received assurances from his generals, who openly challenged his rule two weeks ago, that they would continue to respect the constitution.

Trade unions, he said, had also pledged to freeze strikes.

Yesterday, 30 Sudanese political parties and several key unions agreed to adopt a peace pact to end nearly six years of civil war in South Sudan.

The agreement was contained in a document that is to serve as a working programme for the new government to replace Mahdi's existing coalition.

But the militant National

Islamic Front (NIF), a coalition member which takes a hawkish stand on the war, boycotted the final round of negotiations yesterday.

Peace

Mahdi said the new government would provide quick, consistent support for the armed forces and would work for peace in South Sudan.

He said a series of meetings would be held soon "to serve the question of peace" but did not elaborate.

The military last month complained to Mahdi that it lacked political backing and was poorly equipped and supplied. It gave the prime minister seven days to implement reforms, a deadline that expired last Monday.

Mahdi, expressing fears of a military coup, told Parliament the day the deadline expired that he would resign today unless he

received assurances from the Army and the unions.

But Mahdi told the news conference: "I shall now continue the journey of responsibility."

Mahdi, 53, said he would immediately begin consultations to form a new government to rule Sudan until general elections scheduled for April next year.

New elements

He did not identify parties that would form his new broad-based government but political sources close to the existing government said it was likely to exclude the NIF.

Mahdi said the new government would be sworn in as soon as possible and would include trade union representatives.

The 60,000-strong Army has suffered a series of reverses since September in its war with rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Arab and Western diplomats said last week that troops in besieged southern garrison towns had little ammunition and no food.

Last November, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) signed a peace pact with the SPLA, fighting to end what it sees as domination by the Arabised, Muslim North over the Christian or animist South.

The DUP quit Mahdi's coalition government when parliament rejected the peace accord, which the NIF described as a humiliating surrender.

Harmony

The military problems in the South have been compounded by domestic unrest in the North, with frequent strikes to protest against rising prices and poor pay.

The political sources also said NIF had opposed the formation



Mahdi: pledge

of a government comprising all political forces and trade unions on the grounds it would not work in harmony. It also wanted a clause in the document binding a new government to sharia implementation, anathema to the Christian-led SPLA.

The SPLA has in recent months inflicted a series of military defeats on the 60,000-strong Sudanese Army, claiming the capture of three garrison towns last week alone.

Arafat to visit Pakistan and India

ISLAMABAD, March 5. (AP): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Pakistan for two days this week, the Foreign Ministry said today. He will hold talks which are expected to focus on Middle East peace and laying the foundation of Palestine Embassy in Islamabad.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday and leave on Friday on his first official trip to an Asian country since the declaration of a Palestinian state last November.

Pakistan, a Muslim nation of 107 million, is staunchly anti-Israel and pro-PLO. Islamabad, and several other Muslim and Arab capitals, immediately recognised the Palestinian state as the previous Israel-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

Arafat will meet with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto but most of his itinerary will not be disclosed in advance for security reasons, a Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters.

Embassy

Nevertheless, he is expected to lay the foundation stone of a new Palestinian Embassy and possibly discuss mutual recognition with a newly-formed interim government of Afghanistan headed by Muslim, anti-communist rebels.

The Foreign Ministry was still working out details of Arafat's visit, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

From Islamabad, Arafat will go to New Delhi on a two-day visit to exchange views with the Indian leaders on various issues.

India was among the first countries to recognise the newly declared Palestinian state.

Official sources said the Indian government has decided to extend to Arafat all the courtesy that is usually conferred upon a head of the state.

Arafat's schedule during his visit is not known, but it is expected that it will be more important following developments in the Middle East, which has brightened prospects of peace in the region.

India has supported convening of an international peace conference to find a permanent solution to the Palestine question.

China depicts Tibet as a 'slave society'

BEIJING, March 5. (Reuters): A picture of a peasant with his eyes gouged out appeared in a Chinese newspaper today as part of a propaganda campaign depicting Tibet as a "slave society" in the days before communist rule.

The campaign coincides with the approach of the 30th anniversary on March 10 of a mass uprising against Tibet's Chinese rulers.

The People's Daily showed pictures of the means it said were used to keep 95 per cent of the Tibetan population in servitude to government officials, nobility and monks who owned the land and nearly all the livestock before 1959.

Demonstrations

It showed a peasant whose eyes it said had been gouged out as punishment for offending his master, stocks used to hold prisoners and whips, chains and knives used to beat them.

Chinese troops took control of Buddhist Tibet in the early 1950s to enforce Beijing's claim to sovereignty.

The failure of the 1959 uprising caused Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to flee to

India with thousands of his followers.

Almost all Tibetan monasteries were destroyed after the uprising and the Dalai Lama has never been allowed to return.

In the last 18 months Buddhist monks have staged several pro-independence demonstrations in the Tibetan capital Lhasa which have turned into bloody clashes with armed police.

Western sources in Lhasa have said monks and nuns want to hold more protests to mark the March 10 anniversary, although Chinese officials have repeatedly warned that China's sovereignty over the Himalayan region is not negotiable.

The New China News Agency has also published interviews with pro-communist Tibetans such as Lhalu Cewangdrol who took part in the 1959 rebellion. The agency quoted Lhalu, 74, as saying he did not expect to survive after the uprising was crushed because he was the largest slave owner in Tibet and had killed people.

He said he was spared because he "confessed his crimes, and became a 'new man' through 20 years of manual work."

ALGIERS, March 5. (Reuters): Algeria's armed forces have announced that they are quitting politics.

The move is part of a major reshaping of the country's political life under a new commitment to socialism and opens the way to a multi-party democracy.

It was announced last night after a meeting between President Chadli Benjedid and senior officers of the Army and Defence Ministry.

Colonel Yahia Rahal, central director of the Army's political commissariat, said in a statement distributed by the official news agency APS that the military had decided to withdraw representatives from the central committee of the ruling National Liberation Front.

The armed forces would no longer play a political role, Links

Close links between Algeria's Army and ruling party date back to the FLN's guerrilla struggle against French colonial rule which ended with independence in 1962. Army officers have long played a major behind-the-scenes role.

President Chadli, who took office in 1979 after the death of Houari Boumedienne, was himself an Army colonel. He is still defence minister and commander-in-chief.

Since riots last October, which were sparked by austerity policies but turned into a widespread attack on the FLN, the 59-year-old President has pushed through sweeping reforms.

The party has been divorced from executive power, the government is now formally responsible to parliament and prohibitions on political groups outside the FLN have been dropped.

Colonel Rahal said that after the approval of the new constitution in a referendum last week "it is necessary that the National People's Army should be above political debate, insofar as it is in future called upon to develop within the framework of the creation of associations of a political character."

Tendencies

"The National People's Army should not be implicated in the complex play of tendencies because, as a force at the service only of legal authority, it must keep intact the unity of its ranks and the discipline of its commitment for the defence of the superior interests of the nation and the free choice of the people," Colonel Rahal said.

APS said President Chadli had accepted their resignation from the central committee. The agency did not say how many Army representatives there were in the central committee.

Mubarak asks preachers to stress on family planning

CAIRO, March 5. (AP): President Hosni Mubarak today urged Muslim preachers to stress the need for family planning in their sermons to Egypt's 54 million inhabitants and called the overpopulation problem a "horrible threat."

Mubarak said in a speech commemorating Preachers' Day that senior Muslim sheikhs had ruled that family planning was not against Islam, and that it was up to preachers to make the call for family planning a major issue in their sermons.

In its campaign against overpopulation, the government has been very careful to stress it is advocating family planning, and not birth control. Advertisements show families with two or three children living happier and better off than families with more children.

"Overpopulation is a horrible threat, but some I am sorry to say do not realise its dangers and still call for more children without thinking or understanding the size of the danger," Mubarak said. His comments were carried by the Middle East News Agency.

Weapons

"To save ourselves from this threatening danger, we need many weapons, but one of the important ones are the preachers themselves and transmitting this understanding of the problem to the people, especially those who have limited religious and social consciousness," he added.

Some Muslim extremists reject any form of birth control. Some religious groups have accused the United States, which has poured money and birth control methods in the government's campaign, of forcing birth control on Egypt to weaken the Muslims.

"The overpopulation problem has become so dangerous, it cannot stand arguments from extremist thinking," Mubarak said.

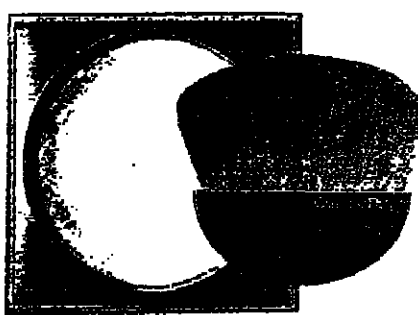
He pointed out that all efforts to develop Egypt and improve the economy were thwarted by the overpopulation problem.

Christian Dior

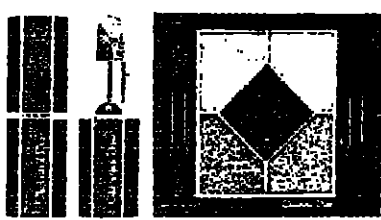
MAQUILLAGE HAUTE COULEUR



SIMPLICITE



SPRING-SUMMER COLLECTION



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OUTLETS	TEL.	DATES (March)	OUTLETS	TEL.	DATES (March)
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Kuwait	2420071/2	6-15	Sultan Center, Salmiya	5719620/1	6-15
Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.			Dina Pharmacy	5713120	6
Salmiya	5721865	6-15	Dahia A. Saleem Co-op.	2515224	6 & 7
Al Gharabally Store,			Faces Exhibition	5745990	6 & 7
Ahmad	3981929	6-15	Sima Pharmacy	5714183	7
Safeway, Farwaniya	4738933	6-15	Cortoba Showroom	5719325	8 & 9
	Ext. 111		Samah Centre, Hawalli	2661200	8 & 9

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Tel: 4835205

National Panasonic Technics

Power-grid talks open in Amman

AMMAN, March 5, (KUNA): The Technical Committee assigned to discuss the electricity link-up of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Syria opened three days of talks here yesterday.

The committee is to discuss technical aspects of the electricity grid that is to link the five countries and agree on initiating economic feasibility of the project.

The committee groups directors general of those countries' electricity institutions and representatives of the Islamic Development Bank and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.



Azmat Sheikh

Kuwait in pictures

By Hamid Siddiqui

"PHOTOGRAPHY is my profession as well as my hobby," says Azmat Sheikh, a noted Pakistani photographer who has achieved acclaim for his "Glimpses of the Holy Places" and "Journey through Pakistan," both pictorial publications that depict places of worship in Saudi Arabia and a comprehensive view of Pakistan.

His latest publication "Kuwait Pictorial" has been released by the Ministry of Information on the 28th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day. The book, which contains a panoramic view of Kuwait's past and present does not only reflect the photographic skills of Sheikh but also his immense affection for this country.

"After spending more than 30 years here, Kuwait is just like my homeland," says Sheikh who has witnessed every stage of Kuwait's development, from a desert Sheikhdom to a teeming metropolis with high rise buildings, well maintained road networks, parks, well designed seafont and to crown it all generous social services which cater to all those living here.

"I have spent the best of my time here and got everything I needed," remarked Sheikh.

He was particularly grateful to the Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Press at the Ministry of Information, Rida Al Feli who encouraged the venture and provided him with every possible facility to produce "Kuwait Pictorial." The ministry he said provided him with a special helicopter for aerial photographs of various beautiful spots in the country.

Information Minister Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad is the great patron on such artistic activities which project Kuwait," Sheikh observed.

The photographer is now planning a world tour to pursue his hobby and has already received invitations from various countries.

Health seminar opens in Dubai

DUBAI, March 5, (KUNA): A seminar, organised by the General Secretariat of the Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council, on human resources opened here yesterday.

The four-day seminar will discuss a number of research papers on the need for human resources to meet development of health services and challenges to medical education in member countries.

Members of the seven delegations, representing UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq, today made field visits to a number of medical institutions in the UAE.

Ahmadi Governorate lacks proper utilities, say residents

THE Ahmadi Governorate suffers from a lack of health, entertainment, and other government utilities, according to residents.

A local daily interviewed a section of residents to highlight some of these problems.

Isolated

Ahmad Nijim, the public relations controller at Shuaiba area stressed the necessity of establishing a Kuwait University Community Service Centre to reduce the time students spend in travelling from Ahmadi governorate areas to the main univer-

Amiri grant will motivate government employees: Rashed

KUWAIT, March 5, (KUNA): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed paid tribute here today in the name of all state employees to His Highness the Amir for the generous financial grant accorded by him to all state employees and retired citizens on the occasion of the 28th National Day.

Rashed, in statements to a local daily, said His Highness' grant will motivate employees to ameliorate performance in accordance with his instructions.

Proposal

Replying to a question over circulating reports that government grade-appointed employees will be re-appointed on new contract-based salary equal to their grades, he said that was only a proposal among many submitted to Civil Service Council committees.

Rashed, however, stressed that the proposal was unrealistic and that there was no reason such a proposal be adopted by the government, which is keen on



Rashed Al Rashed

the interests of the citizens.

He dismissed as baseless reports which say that Kuwait may be faced with a problem of unemployment in the future, saying the government has its future plans and aspires for active participation of the private sector in offering job opportunities for graduates in various specialisations.

GCC foreign ministers review developments in the region

RIYADH, March 5, (KUNA): The six GCC foreign ministers assembled in Riyadh today to review political developments in the Gulf region and the Arab world with special attention to the planned resumption of stalled Iran-Iraq peace negotiations.

Efforts

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain will be holding their first meeting since the last December Gulf co-operation summit in Bahrain.

The GCC ministerial council, which will be presided over by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin

Mubarak Al Khalifa, would also review developments of the Palestinian question and efforts to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East, a GCC source said.

The council's busy agenda is further expected to include Lebanon and other Arab matters in addition to GCC trade with the European Economic Community and the international oil market, the source added.

Unanimous

The Riyadh meeting was highlighted by newspapers across the six GCC countries as the dailies appeared unanimous in their assessment that the Gulf countries have enough political weight and moral strength to attain their goals.

Relations with Kuwait are distinguished: Moroccan envoy

KUWAIT, March 5, (KUNA): Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Abdel Wahid Bin Masoud described his country's relations with Kuwait as "distinguished and developing in all spheres."

The ambassador, in an interview with a local daily, lauded Kuwait's role in solving complex issues in the region, based on reliable political weight.

Address

Masoud pointed out in particular Kuwait's efforts to halt the Gulf war and the UN address by His Highness the Amir in connection with Third World countries debts, in his capacity as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

He also hailed the support for Pan-Arab and humanitarian

issues accorded by the government of Kuwait chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, and praised efforts exerted by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed in his capacity as chairman of the Arab League Committee on Lebanon.

Joint action

The ambassador said the recently-declared Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) is a form of joint Arab action that enhances integration between its member countries disclosing that the AMU will have its own parliament.

The ambassador expressed his country's support to Arab solidarity, the Palestinian uprising and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

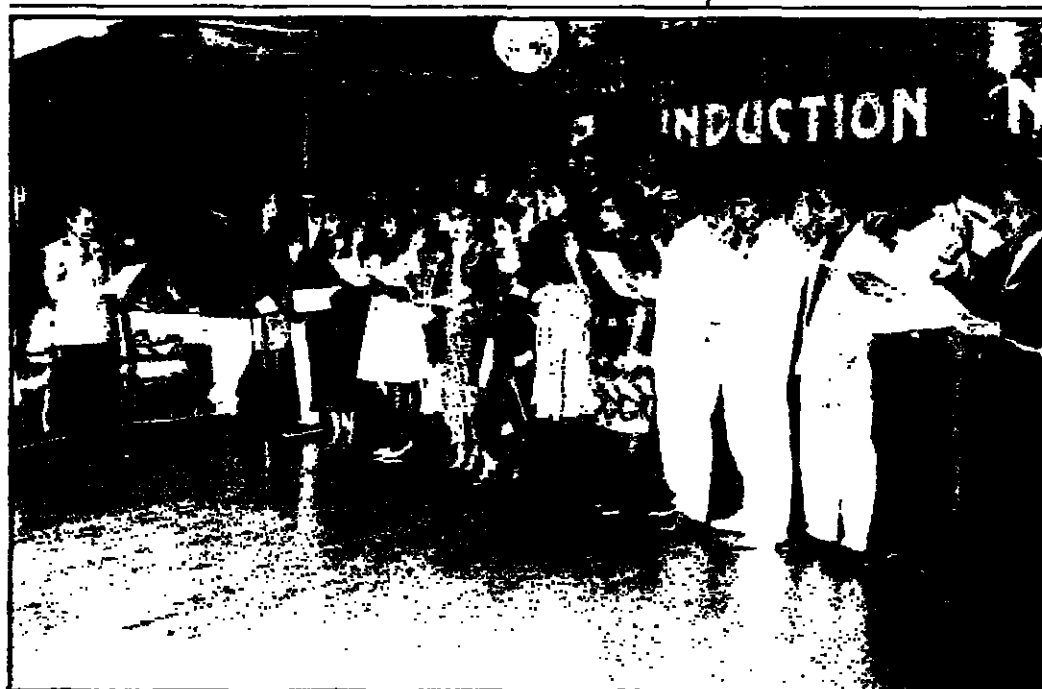
GCC seminar on child literature

THE Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) seminar on child literature continued its session in Doha yesterday in the form of research on the "upbringing of children."

Discussions focused on the childhood stage as being paramount in the life of a human being. During this stage the child

is at an impressionable age and easily assimilates customs, skills, social, physical and intellectual characteristics, was the consensus opinion at the seminar.

The seminar was opened in accordance with the recent recommendations of the GCC ministers of culture.



The new officials of the Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait were sworn in on Saturday night by the Filipino counsellor Fortunato D. Obiena (left).

WHO accreditation for infection control in hospitals

Kuwait Mideast centre for training nursing staff

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has accredited Kuwait as a centre for the training of nursing staff in the Middle East in infection control operations, according to Dr Ghofran Akasha.

An annual course is being organised to train nursing staff on infection control methods in Kuwait and other Middle East countries, he said.

Decrease

In an article published in Mubarak Health publication, he praised official efforts which led to the decrease of infection rate in

Kuwait. He pointed out that overall infection rates at hospitals dropped from 5.1 per cent in 1980 to 1.3 per cent in 1987.

He said that Kuwait has witnessed wide expansion in its medical services. Several specialised centres were established to fight pollution and enhance infection control at hospitals.

Development

During the past three decades Kuwait witnessed positive developments in the field of infection and pollution control. A decree was issued in 1980 to

form the Central Committee for Pollution Control. This was followed by the formation of several branch committees at all hospitals. The Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital Pollution Control Committee was established in 1982, he added.

The Central Committee for Pollution Control formulates general policies to be followed to prevent spread of infection and sub-committees follow up such policies according to hospital requirements. Akasha said that each hospital in Kuwait has now established sterilisation sections.

Owners of maid offices call for legislation by government

MANY businessmen with licences to deal in trade, real estate and advertising are also using their offices illegally for bringing maids to Kuwait. But some of these businessmen say that bringing housemaids from East Asian countries to work for local families is a service which needs to be provided. Rather than punishing them for catering to people's needs, they said, the government should pass laws which deal justly with maids, employers, and maid offices.

A large number of those operating maid offices said they should be issued licences for their offices, while some even proposed such offices should be operated and managed by the government.

One businessman, Sari Al Hajri, said the law should protect both customers and offices

owners. He also said that if the government operated maid offices then the visa problems of most maids would be solved.

Problems

Another office owner, Saleh Al Mutairi, has been bringing maids for the past ten years and has signed contracts with maid offices in India and other East Asian countries. He said the cost of bringing a maid to Kuwait differs depending on her country of origin. Some housemaids pay for their own plane fare in full, while others don't pay at all. In the latter case, he said, employers should pay the company to cover the cost of bringing the maids to Kuwait.

Mutairi pointed out that the owners of maid offices in Kuwait often have to deal with the

problems of maids when they are brought into the country. Most maids come to Kuwait thinking they will work only eight hours per day, whereas in fact they work all through the day. In addition, they often suffer shock from the change in environment. The business of bringing in maids lacks laws to prevent many other problems, Al Mutairi said.

According to Mukhtar Rwaishad, bringing maids from outside the country in spite of a ban by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is risky. He has been subjected to three fines so far, he said. The first time he was given a warning, and on the third occasion his office was ordered closed for one month. Rwaishad said that most maids who are returned by their employers to the office are employed again by other sponsoring families.

Health Ministry forms committee to upgrade emergency services

THE Director of Central Medical Emergency Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Mohammed Al Munayya, was quoted as saying in an interview with a local daily, that the ministry had formed a committee to upgrade medical emergency services.

He added that the committee after an exhaustive study has called for an integrated medical emergency services system similar to that in USA and Canada.

The system includes medical services to be extended to patients prior and during the hospitalisation process and defines the responsibility of each hospital and health centre.

The ministry within the framework of its plans to develop

emergency services decided to cancel the seven digit telephone numbers of the emergency department to be replaced by the number 155.

He denied the possibility of establishing mobile hospitals commenting that the distribution of hospitals and health centres had been designed to meet the country's requirements.

Proposal

Likewise, the official denied any intention to purchase aircraft for moving patients. The ministry seeks the help of the Kuwait Airforce to meet such cases, particularly for the shifting of patients from Falaka Island to the city, the official said.

In a related development, the daily interviewed the Deputy

Director of Central Medical Emergency Department, Dr Mohammed Al Sharhan, who said that the department had suggested an incentives system to be applied in the department to encourage recruitment of personnel. He expressed hope that Civil Service Commission will agree with the proposal.

Sharhan described the future of the emergency system in Kuwait as bright particularly in the light of the ministry's intention to grant diplomas in emergency services medicine in co-operation with Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations.

Studies in relevant colleges will enable students to obtain the necessary knowledge in internal diseases, surgery and related fields, the official said.

Bahraini Amir wants lasting peace in the Gulf

KUWAIT, March 5, (KUNA): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa has asserted that his country would do anything to consolidate the current Iran-Iraq ceasefire into a lasting and comprehensive peace.

"We and all other peace-loving nations are endeavouring to achieve lasting peace, and economic prosperity for all people in the region," Sheikh Issa told a local Kuwaiti daily in an interview.

Interest

Answering a question on Lebanon, Sheikh Issa said his country followed with strong interest the current peace-making efforts of the Arab League Good-offices Committee chaired by Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

The opening will be held at the headquarters of the model governorate camp opposite South Sabahiya Public Gardens at 3:30 pm and will last till March 10.

The campaign will include cultural seminars on the fronts and gardens of houses; AIDS; effects of foreign baby sitters and maids on Kuwaiti society; population; protecting Shuaiba Industrial Area from pollution; protecting public utilities; security and safety; importance of breast feeding; health and environment; and a seminar on the activities of firemen.

The campaign will also include activities to clean roads and public areas in different parts of Ahmadi governorate, afforestation, as well as a tournament of handball at Fabaheel Sports Club.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

"Kuwait is a trustworthy mediator operating responsibly, and we are of the hope that Lebanon would soon overcome its constitutional crisis," the Bahraini leader went on.

Struggle

Turning to the Palestinian intifada, Sheikh Issa said "it is our duty to back our Palestinian brethren in the struggle against the Israeli occupiers."

In the interview, Sheikh Issa also dwelled on bilateral Kuwaiti-Bahraini links, describing them as very strong and deep-rooted.

He pointed out that the Gulf Co-operation Council has proved itself as a pioneering, successful and productive experiment to cement regional Arab co-operation.

Model governorate campaign opens in Ahmadi today

THE Environmental Protection Council (EPC) will open today the campaign of the model governorate in Ahmadi under the patronage of Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

The opening will be held at the headquarters of the model governorate camp opposite South Sabahiya Public Gardens at 3:30 pm and will last till March 10.

The campaign will include cultural seminars on the fronts and gardens of houses; AIDS; effects of foreign baby sitters and maids on Kuwaiti society; population; protecting Shuaiba Industrial Area from pollution; protecting public utilities; security and safety; importance of breast feeding; health and environment; and a seminar on the activities of firemen.

The campaign will also include activities to clean roads and public areas in different parts of Ahmadi governorate, afforestation, as well as a tournament of handball at Fabaheel Sports Club.

Workers union submits memo to CSC official

KUWAIT Workers Union in the public sector has submitted a memorandum to the under-secretary of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) calling for a unified allowance.

The memo claimed that these allowances, paid as compensation for hazardous duties, vary from each ministry and also within departments.

It added that allowances are paid to some workers, while no payment is given to others performing the same job.

The memo called on the CSC to achieve justice and equality in the payment of allowances among public servants.

The union stressed that technical jobs are very important to run all vital utilities in the state. It is important to concentrate these jobs in the hands of national manpower. The increase of population offers opportunities for new jobs and encourages citizens to work in technical jobs, the memo said.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Bahrain Telecommunications Company aims to provide the latest technology to its customers

BAHRAIN is renowned as a country of vital strategic importance in the Gulf for both regional and international commercial activities in view of its unique telecommunication industry. The country's telecommunication system is among the most advanced not only in the region, but throughout the world. Indeed telecommunication has been among the fastest growing industries in this tiny island nation, playing a key role in the country's overall general economic growth. Described as the 'life line' of Bahrain, the industry has been a single unique development in the history of the nation's economic progress, going back to pre-oil days in the Thirties.

Taking charge

Before Bahrain's independence in 1971, telecommunication activities in the country were run by Britain's Cable and Wireless Company. On July 1, 1981, the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (BATELCO) was formed, with 60 per cent of the company owned by the government and the private sector and 40 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless. However, in January 1989, 80 per cent of the company went to the Bahraini side, with the government taking charge of 50 per cent of the shares with Cable and Wireless owning only 20 per cent.

BATELCO's remarkable success record since its inception, was highlighted by one of its top officials to the Arab Times in an interview.

According to Ali Sahwan, Public Relations Officer of BATELCO, its aim is to keep pace with the telecommunication technological development in the world and to meet all market requirements of telecommunication industry in Bahrain.

Service

"As a major contributor to Bahrain's economy our aim is to provide the best service, providing the latest 'state of the art' technology, to our customers. We hope to continue to maintain the quality of our service based on highest European standards," said Sahwan.

Bahrain's telecommunication system offers telephone, telegraph and bureau services to potentially anywhere in the world, wherever an advanced telecommunication network is operational. The country boasts of direct telephone link to 153 countries — nearly all the countries of the 'free world'.

Fast installation

"Our telephone line installation service is the fastest in the world. An average of 70 per cent of applications for new telephone lines are dealt with within a week, 93 per cent of applications receive prompt action within 18 working days," said Sahwan.

In keeping with the growing expansion of Bahrain's telecommunication industry, BATELCO gives top priority to its staff training. The company's training college, formed in 1971, will move to new premises in Hamala in 1990.

Training budget

The training budget has been on the increase every year considering the introduction and application of new technology and increasing staff turnover. In 1988 BD1.5 million was allocated for training purposes both in Bahrain and overseas, mainly Britain.

BATELCO also introduced a new unique line of services called 'Inforline' in 1988 for the public. The six lines include information on the latest round of sports, video charts, local and world news, etc. Last month 'weatherline' was introduced as the latest addition to this popular service.

Computerised

Bahrain's telecommunication system is increasingly being 'computerised' in order to provide better and more efficient service to the consumers. BATELCO is currently undergoing an expansion programme by introducing a digital telephone network to improve the service of transmission. At present 59 per cent of the total telephone network in the country is digitalised and by early 1990s the entire network is scheduled to be completely digitalised.

By 1991 overseas lines are expected to become fully computerised. At present ISDN (International Service Digital Network) is applicable to only UK and USA.

Cable link

Recently, it was announced that Bahrain-Saudi cable link will commence in June. The 70 kilometre fibre optic cable project will improve telecommunication services between the two countries. The project, which is the first of its kind in the Middle East to link two countries, is scheduled to be completed by the year end.

Total number of telephone lines in Bahrain by the end of February 1989 stand at 88,391. The network comprises 3,517 mobile telephones and 3,371 pagers (beeps).

Total staff turnover is 2,100, with Bahrainis comprising 87 per cent. By 1993 the entire workforce is expected to be made up of locals.

BATELCO registered a net profit of BD19.5 million in 1988 as against BD17.7 million in 1987.

Lack of staff affects Farwaniya dental clinics

THE director of Farwaniya Health Area, Dr Sulaiman Al Ali, was quoted as saying in an interview with a local daily, that Farwaniya Health Area is suffering from a shortage in dental clinics and attributed the shortage to a lack of technicians, nursing staff and facilities.

The dental department at the Ministry of Public Health in co-operation with a prestigious American institution has prepared a programme for developing dental health care at Kuwaiti schools. A specialised clinic in line with this programme

has been established at Ardiya.

There is a strong co-operation between Farwaniya educational area and the health area to promote such programmes. About 1,604 students from 17 schools at the area have availed of dental tests, Ali said.

The area health administration is planning to increase dental clinics to 11 in addition to establishing specialised clinics. A tender for the construction of new clinics has been published. The working hours at Jleeb Al Shuykh clinic will be extended up to midnight, the official said.

Co-operative societies registered KD212 million sales in 1988

SALES of co-operative societies registered KD212 million last year with an increase in profits, according to a senior co-operative official.

Ali Abu Hadida, Chairman of the Union of Co-operative Societies said that the number of shares and services offered by co-operatives also increased. Several new supermarkets were opened by local co-operatives during 1988. They expanded by using modern technology and computer systems in selling and storage services.

Commenting on the difference in prices of some items sold by co-operatives, Hadida pointed out that the union succeeded in unifying prices of several thousand items. Only prices of items bought from different sources and producers are sold at different rates — but these are few, the official said.

He said that the union set up a committee which holds regular meetings to discuss latest developments on prices of commodities in local and foreign markets. The committee succeeded in putting an end to the unreasonable hike in prices by communicating with importers and by offering substitute items. Another committee is engaged in collective purchasing which reduces costs. Purchases are favoured from the local market — specially national products which are given priority at the shelves of supermarkets and co-operatives.

The union since last November began a three-year-plan to train more than 2,000 workers and administrators. The courses are organised in co-operation with Kuwait University, Arab Planning Institute and Administrative and Technical Studies Institute.

كويت اليوم

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

One more villain, some more trouble



Sridevi and Mithun romancing in Guru.

By Fathima Ahmed

ONE more villain, some more trouble and a three more films — Joshilay, Do Qaidi and Guru. Yet, the good guys always triumph.

In Joshilay writer Javed Akhtar, perhaps, worked over time to put together the newest screen monster in the form of Jogi Thakur, played by Rajesh Vivek, adding one more bad man to the growing list of villains in Hindi films.

Jogi Thakur is neither an ascetic nor an aristocrat; he is a menace — nasty, ruthless, cruel and deadly — with a single-minded purpose of destroying everyone and everything.

Jogi joins the ranks of other screen villains like Gabbar Singh and Dr Dang. Jogi's character is central to Joshilay's theme: he is the first to pull the trigger, and he calls all the shots.

Horses gallop in the desert, dust rises, bullets fly, tempers flare, fire blazes, the informers get a dose of Jogi's deadly poison, and so the story goes on and on.

And the price of Jogi's head shoots up.

Larger than life locales, lavish sets and a cardboard city built in the desert form the backdrop for this cat and mouse game, which, needless to say, ends in mayhem and destruction with a rather predictable ending. But not before director Sibte Hasan Rizvi turns the full circle of violence, wrapped in a glamorous, slick package complete with Sridevi and Meenakshi — who serve as pretty props in the arid desert village.

Structured on the style of Hollywood westerns, Joshilay offers poor "desi" (local) cowboy substitutes vying for stellar honours with the likes of John Wayne. The movie, filmed in Ladakh, is worth seeing if you care to know what Jogi Thakur looks like or how Sridevi plays Galambo; or Sunny rides a horse or Anil handles a gun.

Do Qaidi
The theme of Do Qaidi is structurally weak and the police is on a wild goose chase, pursuing two petty thieves instead of identifying the real troublemakers.

At the Kuwait Plaza
AL DALLAH coffee shop: breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.

Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music by the Duonova band.

Louluwah Corner: open from 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al-Aziz Band.

The Friday Family Bunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Continental
GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At Messilah Beach
MUBARAKIYAH Restaurant: Open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go."

At the Meridian
EVERY Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; sea food buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the Pullman
ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallah Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Holiday Inn
EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Superclub on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At the Sheraton
RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesdays: Thai Night; Wednesdays: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West.

Friday's buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the Ballroom next door.

Hunt Room: lunch and dinner rest., specialises in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tarbouche: offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner. Thursdays: Arab world specialties night.

Coffee Shop offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.

Mannu (Sunjay Dutt) and Kannu (Govinda) are small-time crooks with hearts of gold. By the connivance of story-writer Pushpa S. Choudhury they get entangled in knee-deep trouble, fleeing for their lives through the jungle (somehow, they find sufficient time to dream about dancing with their girls Farha, Neelam in the woods).

Nothing in the film lifts it from pits of despair and mediocrity, despite the implausible heroics of the young and the old. Dialogues, replete with rhetoric and platitudes, make matters worse. Stereotypes K.K. (Amrith Puri) and Bichchu (Gulshan Grover) add to our woes.

If someone has the habit of fast forwarding songs and fight sequences, he/she would be able to watch Do Qaidi, a 170-reel film, in less than 45 minutes.

Guru

Guru (Mithun Chakraborty) can be compared with Karan, Dara, Mannu or Kannu. The only difference is that he works out in the gym, fights the street bums and wants to become a police officer. Well, no prizes for guessing the end.

Guru's mission, like the rest of our heroes, is not surprisingly, similar. He acts fast, talks fast and is rather temperamental, thanks to Mohan Bagga, who directs the action sequences in scores of Hindi films.

There is a double bonanza in the form of Sridevi, playing the "good girl" and the "bad girl", both to Guru's advantage.

The only disadvantage is that we've seen all this before, except for the novel use of technology. Laser guns are stolen from under the nose of security men for daring gold robbery in broad daylight. Video cameras expose moles in the villain's den; flashbacks tell the sad, sad tale of separation 20 years ago and director Umesh Mehra comes out into believing it was all his idea of a good evening's entertainment. It could be if you took everything with a pinch of salt.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900; and Falcon Video, Tel: 4316398.



Sunjay Dutt

● All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.25 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Al Jazir Min Hanaan: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rashid, Rabee'a Shihab, Shafiqah Tahir
11.00 Baqaya Wajoo: Arabic serial, starring Ibrahim Sallal, Haifa Adel, Ayesha Ibrahim, Khalifa Omar
12.00 Kuwait Al Ams: Kuwait Yesterday. Part 2.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite/Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Nelly's
5.25 Mama and Children
5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial, starring Majed Afiouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina and cartoons will also be shown.
6.30 Variety Show
7.00 News Summary



Alfred Hitchcock Presents, tonight on KTV 2.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
6.30 Chocky's Challenge: a device made by a team led by Albertine disappears from the lab
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and views
7.30 Perspective: examines reflex action. Documentary.
8.00 News in English
8.40 A different world: Denise and her colleagues celebrate Christmas. Comedy.
9.30 Equinox: "Nature's Technology."
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Ancient Voices." Thriller.
10.30 French Feature Film.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/ Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newscast
30 In Praise of God
0100 News Summary followed by Time Will Tell
45 The Intimate Brahms (ex 27th Chopin Collection)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
30 Science in Action
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Food and Drink
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newscast
30 6th and 13th The War of the Worlds: 20th and 27th Dangerous in Love
45 Nature Now
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Colours
0600 Newscast
30 6th and 13th Phone-In; 20th and 27th Papa Wojtyla
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Colours
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 6th and 13th The War of the Worlds: 20th and 27th Dangerous in Love
30 Anything Goes
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Food and Drink
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Andy Kershaw's World of Music

1000 News Summary followed by 6th and 13th Phone-In; 20th and 27th Papa Wojtyla
30 The Vintage Chart Show
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Health Matters
30 The Ken Bruce Show
1200 Newscast
15 My Music
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Colours
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Picture of Dorian Gray
1500 Newscast
15 Time Will Tell (ex 13th Commonwealth Day Service; 27th Sports World)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 6th and 13th The War of the Worlds: 20th and 27th Dangerous in Love
30 Health Matters
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Screenplay
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newscast
30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
25 Financial News
30 Network UK
45 Short Story
2000 World News
09 The World Today
25 Words of Faith
30 The Vintage Chart Show
2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
15 Europe's World
30 Sports International
2200 Newscast
2300 World News
09 Commentary
15 The Learning World

English

MORNING
0800 Opening
0805 Songs and Music
0810 Science Journal
0820 Songs and Music
0840 Songs and Music
0915 Daily Programme
0930 Radio Magazine
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1030 Songs and Music
1100 Closedown
EVENING
2100 Opening
2102 Bits and Bytes
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 Facts About Zionism
2215 Magazine Special
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Pull Melt
2400 Closedown

FM Services

0600 Opening/Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1030 Easy Listening
1330 News on FM Service
1340 Easy Listening
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Latin American
1800 Pops
1900 Holter Skelter
2000 Pops
2130 News
2145 Pops
2200 Jazz
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Listening
0200 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Bustaan Al Damm (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Amara, Ilham Shahin
Al Sahiya
People's theatre performance
Al Hamra
Al Khatem (Arabic)
Starring: Nelli, Samir Sabri, Jalal Sharqawi
Drive-In
Mo'allimah Samah (Arabic)
Starring: Madiha Kamel, Ezzat Alaili, Muna Abdul Ghani
Al Fikra
Some Ka Dil Lohe Ke Haath (Hindi)
Starring: Rajendra Kumar, Vidya Sinha
Fahad Open-air
Fakira (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Blast Fighter
Al Jahra
Mob Busters
Granada
Rat Roy
Salsabikhat
French Quarter Under Cover
Al Jib
Raj Nandini (Bengali)
Ahmed Drive-In
Paulo Roberto

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.48 am
Zuhr 11.59
Asr 3.21 pm
Maghreb 5.51
Isha 7.08

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Salem Pharmacy
nr Sheraton, Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Rashid Pharmacy
Awadhi Bldg., Ahmed Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Othman St.
Salmiya and Rumailiya
Al Qortuba Pharmacy
Salmiya (North) Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahad and Almadhi
Al Iman Pharmacy
Makkah St.
Khalifa
Al Hayat Pharmacy
Al Zain Bldg., Ibn Zahir St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Market

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salmiya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Arabian Gulf St.

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

Concert

MARCH 14: Mouchira Issa gives her first performance of the year at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, New Grand Ballroom, at 8 pm. For reservations contact the hotel's banquet office.

Beat Concert

MARCH 31: A beat concert featuring the Perfect Strangers will be held from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

Sound Great

A REVUE directed by Ken Winston will be staged from March 31 to April 4 at the UAS, Salwa. A casting meeting will be held at the Sunshine School, Salwa, on March 4, 8 pm. Actors, actresses, singers and dancers required. For details ring 5740256/7 or 5625316.

EXHIBITION

Bengali Book Show

BENGALI books written by Bangladeshis are still on show at the Bangladesh embassy in Jabriya. More titles are likely to be displayed this week.

Higher Education in Britain

MARCH 11-15: The British Council presents an exhibition on British Higher Education. It will feature information on all aspects of higher education in Britain. A group of senior staff from Scottish universities will attend the exhibition. For details contact Education Advisor Kate Harries. Tel: 2520067.

Modern Kuwait

UNTIL March 8: The Kuwait's University's Art and Culture Department is holding a photographic exhibition on "Modern Kuwait" at the College of Commerce, Adhafiya.

SOCIAL

Gala Dinner

MARCH 9: The Great

Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4831339; 5393151.

British Tea Party

MARCH 10: The British Tea Party/animal fun day will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel from midday with fun stalls, animal-painting competition, children's super-star contest, soccer and basketball. Leo's magic and other events. For details phone 5624111 ext. 751/739.

Masquerade Ball

MARCH 10: 6 pm. KAPILKU Masquerade Ball at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Andalus Club. Awards for best costume, best mask, best couple. Parlor games and raffle contest are added attractions. Buffet dinner. Entrance: KD. 5.

Contact

MARCH 11: The next meeting of the ladies information group will be held at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note change of venue. For details call 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Hair Science Class

MARCH 17: A one-day hair science class will be held at Holiday Inn Hotel, 2 to 6 pm. Certificate of attendance will be given. Entrance free for all KAPILKU members. For details call Ojje Olor — 5634200.

SPORTS

Keep-fit

SATURDAYS (5-6 pm) aerobics for ladies; (6-7 pm) mixed aerobics; instructor Tuovi Pakkasalo.

Sundays (5.30 pm): squash handicapped tournament.
Mondays (6-7 pm): Separate keep-fit classes for men and women. Instructors Christine and Steve Hill incorporate aerobics and weight training in the programme.

Fun Run

MARCH 17: 30 km fun run for teams of 4 at Messilah Beach Hotel. Commences at 10 am. Registration is strictly limited. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Jon Evans — 5339867.

Danish Darts Tournament

MARCH 17: Daniella invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held from 4 pm at Gazelle Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette — 3723413; Ingrid — 3715637.

Aerobic/Yoga/Swimming

AT Kuwait International Hotel: Aerobics for ladies from 6 to 7 pm every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Yoga every Sunday and Tuesday from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Swimming starts March 6-22, Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays. For details contact the hotel's recreation manager Colin Hall.

Raft Race

THE third Kuwait Annual Raft Race will be held on May 26. Mens/ladies/mixed and carnival events. This year's rules and regulations are available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. The first captains' meeting will be held at the hotel on March 7 (6.30 pm).

HOTELS

At the SAS

BISTRETTO: A new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialties prepared by Chef

Peter D. Zobrist.

AL Boom: the floating restaurant will offer a different speciality every two days as well as the Al Boom menu of charcoal grills.

Peacock Room: offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine introduced by Chef Von Kwee Kiong.

The Clock Drive-In restaurant serves fast foods and daily specials.

At the Kuwait Plaza

AL DALLAH coffee shop: breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.

Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music by the Duonova band.

Louluwah Corner: open from 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

At the Ramada

AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al-Aziz Band.

The Friday Family Bunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Continental

GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At Messilah Beach

MUBARAKIYAH Restaurant: Open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go."

At the Meridian

EVERY Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; sea food buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the Pullman

ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallah Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Holiday Inn

EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Superclub on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At the Sheraton
RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesdays: Thai Night; Wednesdays: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West.

Friday's buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the Ballroom next door.

Hunt Room: lunch and dinner rest., specialises in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tarbouche: offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner. Thursdays: Arab world specialties night.

Coffee Shop offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.



● Soviet dancers enthralled the audience on Saturday night at the Red Army's first concert at Andalus Cinema. Sixty members of the troupe took part in the colourful and dance extravaganza. Above: Red Army members dancing to the tune of Army music. (Photo by Amer Jedid)

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ASK yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher — economist (1806-1873).

OPINION

End to Lebanese crisis in sight

IS the Lebanese crisis on its way to being solved? Has the tension ended in Lebanon? These are the questions being asked by people now.

As an answer to the second question we can safely say that the tense atmosphere surrounding the Lebanese crisis has recently greatly retreated and have perhaps ended.

This is because the issue is no more a card that is being used or played within the context of international detente or in the distribution of areas of influence.

The card of the Lebanese issue and civil war are no more important as it used to be to many countries. In the eyes of the forces who were dabbling with this issue it has become a costly game.

Consequently, the motives that created tension in Lebanon have almost disappeared. Still, many Lebanese are asking — how quickly will a final solution be reached at?

All signs indicate that presently the Lebanese crisis is on the right path to a solution. Suffice it to say that the partition fear has totally disappeared and this fact has been realised by all sides and factions.

All developments indicate that fears of partition that predominated the period of President Amin Gemayel have vanished. The developments, which are numerous, confirm that the issue of Lebanon's partition is totally ruled out.

What is not ruled out is the return to the spirit that prevailed before the civil war. The Lebanese people who fought each other with money and weapons provided by others paid an expensive price — largely Lebanese blood and in the form of Lebanon's destruction.

Tensions that were goading Lebanon to become a centre for influencing peddling and conflict have now disappeared. Even those previously involved in fighting for influence in Lebanon, now want the Lebanese file closed because it has become very costly.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Palestinian uprising

Film tries to curb excessive force

By Allyn Fisher

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) A Palestinian youth, his chest wrapped in a bloody bandage, dies of a plastic bullet wound. His relatives scream and bang their fists on hospital doors to express their grief.

The dramatic scenes in the occupied Gaza Strip are part of new Israeli Army instruction film, shown to foreign journalists, that commanders say is intended to counter a tendency by soldiers to use too much force when quelling Arab rioters.

"This death oils the wheels of the uprising," the narrator says, summing up one key message of the film at a time when Israel is coming under increasing criticism for harsh treatment of Palestinian stone-throwers.

At least 388 Palestinians have been killed during the nearly 15-month-old uprising against Israeli rule, most by Army gunfire and several from beatings. Seventeen Israelis, including six soldiers, also have died.

Brig. Gen. Ehud Gross, the Army's chief education officer, said the 40-minute movie reflects concern in the military about soldiers using excessive force against protesters.

Power
"You know about the use of excessive power. We have some problems with it. You have a small unit with a mission in the Gaza Strip, someone loses his temper and uses too much power," Gross said.

"We try to reduce the feeling of trying to use excessive power when you get into a situation where you are humiliated or hurt. To teach them to cope with it, bury it, put it behind you," he added.

Disciplinary action for these breaches have been taken against several hundred troops during the uprising. About 50 have been put on trial.

Gross indicated that illegal use of force was even more widespread because troops hesitated to report on their colleagues "because they don't want to violate the value of solidarity."

Excessive beating has raised particular concern among officials on foreign television newscasts.

This problem was dramatized this week at the trial of four troops accused of beating a man in Jebaila refugee camp to death last summer while conducting an arrest in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Israel's Chief of Staff, Lieut. Gen. Dan Shomron, who testified at the trial, said the policy of beating was intended to subdue rioters, not inflict punishment. But he noted there is a "grey area" where the soldiers must use their own discretion.

Gross said the movie was made partly to address this issue. "We understand there is some confusion. So we don't want to leave so much open to interpretation."

The movie shows several scenes of soldiers using clubs against rioters, and a narrator points out which beatings were illegal.

Shomron is also shown saying "it must be clear that at the moment when your goal is completed, there is no use of force for punishment or revenge."

The film also shows tank battles in an attempt to point out the difference between regular combat and confronting civilian violence.

Destroy
"We are trained to destroy our enemy. But today we are fighting on a different kind of front. What kind of a battleground is this?" The narrator says, as a jeep is shown cruising through a dusty refugee camp.

Another segment shows a soldier firing his rifle repeatedly at about a 45 degree angle on a street after being stoned by protesters.

"This is wrong. It is indiscriminate shooting. It causes many casualties, sometimes innocent people," the narrator says.

"We need to maintain our self-control," the narrator adds, after a scene in which a soldier says, "I felt this incredible anger. They were cursing at us, throwing stones, and we couldn't do anything to stop it. I just wanted to grab someone and do I don't know what to him."

Sessions
Gross said the film has been shown to all reservists sent to patrol in Gaza since December and that a second film was being produced about the West Bank. Soldiers also now undergo special two-or-three-day sessions in which they are taught how to deal with rioters, Gross said.

Although the main goal is to reduce casualties, the troops are also urged not to shy from confrontations with protesters, he added.

"We are trying to help soldiers cope with the dilemmas they face, how to deal with morals and fulfill their mission best," Gross said.

In post-Soviet Afghanistan

By Bernd Debusmann

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters) Afghanistan's warring parties and their foreign backers are preparing for the next round of a conflict which could plunge the country into a free-for-all reminiscent of Lebanon.

In the jockeying for position following the departure of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan, parallels with power struggles in Lebanon are being drawn with increasing frequency by diplomats and analysts who monitor the war.

The elements for chaos and violence are in place: huge supplies of weapons from the superpowers, vast sums of outside money to buy influence, ethnic minorities with age-old grudges, tribal warlords competing for wider powers, fierce personal rivalries.

Disintegration

The United States, the Soviet Union, Iran and Pakistan all support rival camps and factions with guns, money and advice.

"Who will prevent Lebanonisation of Afghanistan?" asked a recent front-page headline in the

Pakistan Times over an analysis which raised the prospect of the country's disintegration into separate principalities run by rival warlords.

The newspaper answered its own question with a gloomy conclusion: "At the moment, one can hardly see any party... effective enough to prevent Afghanistan becoming another Lebanon."

Arsenals

After the Soviet Union withdrew the last of more than 110,000 men on Feb 15, the Afghan conflict reverted to what it was before Moscow intervened in December 1979: civil war between a left-wing government bent on imposing reforms and Muslim "holy warriors" (mujahideen) who felt their culture and age-old traditions were under threat.

Almost 10 years of war killed, by most estimates, more than a million people. It laid waste large parts of Afghanistan and drove more than one third of the pre-

war population of 15 million across the border into refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran.

Afghanistan's lost decade also saw the transformation of rebel arsenals from a motley collection of World War II rifles to the most lethal equipment superpower money could buy and guerrilla fighters could capture, from heat-seeking missiles to heavy artillery and tanks.

"What did not happen," observed an Asian diplomat, "was the emergence of a leader of national stature who could pull the strands of Afghan society together."

A government-in-exile formed on Feb 23 by the seven guerrilla groups based in Pakistan appeared to be no more representative of Afghanistan as a whole than the administration of President Najibullah in Kabul.

It was the second "interim government" formed within a year and excluded representatives of eight rebel groups based in Iran. Three of the seven Pakistan-based chiefs declined

to take posts in the cabinet-in-exile, suggesting even they had doubts over its viability.

The man elected president of the exile government after two weeks of wrangling, moderate Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, said the exile administration represented no more than a third of Afghan opinion.

Buffer

"In the absence of solutions, the 'great game' continues," said a diplomat, referring to the days when Afghanistan served as a buffer between Tsarist Russia and an Indian empire ruled by Victorian Britain.

Today's great game is played both for religious and political stakes, a combination which has helped invite comparisons with

Lebanon. The United States, which provided the mujahideen with weapons, said after the Soviet withdrawal it would continue supplying arms for as long as Najibullah government remained in power.

Moscow meanwhile turned over huge stockpiles of weapons to its Afghan clients before pulling out, under an accord under UN auspices and signed in Geneva last April.

Distributing

Pakistan, host to more than three million Afghan refugees, has played a central role in distributing US-supplied weapons to the various rebel groups and thus gained more influence in Afghanistan than it ever had.

According to diplomatic sources,

Pakistan's powerful Inter Services Intelligence, the agency which funnels arms to the rebels, is pressing them to seize a major city as soon as possible and move the interim government there.

Several senior rebel commanders are opposed to such tactics, saying they would prefer to concentrate on taking Kabul first. Once the capital has fallen, they argue, the rest of the country will follow without much resistance.

Although many signs point to the possibility of the guerrillas turning their guns on each other once they topple Najibullah, some seasoned observers say the multiple proxy wars that ruined Lebanon may never happen in Afghanistan.

"Perhaps the Afghans will do what they have always done best," said a Western envoy. "That is take as much money and as many weapons as they can get from outsiders, then turn round, kick everybody in the butt and do exactly what they please."

Boutros bows out of race for international posts

By John Rogers

CAIRO, (Reuters) Boutros Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian veteran of 12 years in the trenches of Middle East diplomacy, is bowing out of the race for top United Nations job.

After being a candidate for two posts in four years and landing neither, Boutros Ghali, 66, says he finally has no more ambitions to become an international bureaucrat.

"After a certain age you cannot change, or you must be wise enough not to change," he told Reuters in a recent interview.

He said Israeli and American opposition eased him out of the running for the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1985.

He bowed out of the race for UNESCO's top post so as not to challenge controversial Secretary-General Amadou Mahtar M'bow — a fellow African. In the end, M'bow did not win another term.

Boutros Ghali says he turned down proposals that he should run for chief of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which went last month to Michel Hansenne of Belgium.

Work

He said if he would take him two or three years to work himself into the job and, by then, when he would be approaching 70, he should be writing his memoirs.

Boutros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is one of the few Christian cabinet ministers in mainly-Muslim Egypt. His wife is an Egyptian of Jewish origin.

He is an expert on international law and institutions and the man behind Egypt's African and Latin American policy.

But his main ambition harks back to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the dominant issue for modern Egypt which brought him into politics from academic life and journalism in 1977.

"My ambition would certainly be — let us be modest — to see the beginning of the road to solve the Palestinian problem..." he said. "It will take years of work. But if you could just start — because unfortunately we have not started."

Negotiations

The late President Anwar Sadat chose Boutros Ghali for a key role in negotiations with Israel which led to the 1978 Camp David accords and the only Arab peace treaty with the Jewish state the following year.

He went with Sadat to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 and led Cairo's team at Washington talks with the Israelis. Sadat called him home twice in protest against Israel's attitude. He was also involved in abortive follow-up negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

It was a momentous start to a globe-trotting career which these days often takes him on more mundane missions to Africa.

He sees no contradiction between Egypt's Arab policy and its often-overlooked African role, arguing that three-quarters of Arab land and people lie within Africa.

Boutros Ghali, whose family's land was nationalised in the 1950s, has high government office in his blood.

His grandfather, Boutros Pasha Ghali, was assassinated as

prime minister in 1910. An uncle was foreign minister in the 1920s, and other ministers and parliamentarians figure in the family tree.

Resign

Boutros Ghali served as acting foreign minister in 1977 and 1978 when ministers Ismail Fahmy and Mohamed Kamel resigned over Sadat's peace policy.

Bespectacled and slightly stooping, Boutros Ghali is a technician, who avoids the limelight. But he is no stranger to disagreement.

Angolan officials accused him last year of confusing public opinion by saying in a television interview that Angolan leaders were ready to talk with the rebel UNITA movement.

During Egypt's peace negotiations with Israel, the Jewish state's then-premier Menachem Begin made no secret of his dislike for Boutros Ghali. At one stage, Israel tried to have him removed from Cairo's team. He stayed.

Low-key

In choosing Boutros Ghali for his high-profile negotiating team, Sadat plucked him from a successful but low-key public service career.

He was a member of the political bureau of the ruling Arab Socialist Union Party and president of the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al Ahram newspaper, where he had earlier helped to found and edit a weekly economic magazine.

Journalism taught him to write simply and "helped me to come out of the university ivory tower," he wrote in the magazine's 1,000th edition last year.

anything but the barest essentials," the doctor said. Like most Iranians who talked to foreign reporters, he asked not to be identified.

"The situation is infinitely worse for the ordinary people who have to feed a family on the equivalent of a monthly salary of \$50," he added.

With salaries so low and prices rising daily, many Iranians have to work at least two jobs to make ends meet and blame Khomeini's widely criticised government for their plight.

Top clerical leaders concede there is economic hardship, but blame the war. Widespread allegations of corruption, also blamed for shortages, forced prosecutor-general Mohammad Hussein Khomeini to demand "harsher punishment for embezzlers and swindlers to rid public organizations of deviation."



Khomeini swings back to radicalism

By Alex Efty

TEHRAN, (AP) The end of the Iran-Iraq war seems to have ushered in a new period of turbulence in the Iranian leadership, visible most recently in Ayatollah Khomeini's public denunciations of Iranian moderates.

Meanwhile, the nation continues to face a variety of economic problems, although the end of the fighting has made life more normal in many parts of the country.

During the eight-year war, the nation's competing power blocs maintained a largely united front, despite signs of some disagreement. But since a ceasefire last Aug 20 ended that conflict, differences among Iranian leaders have become more pronounced.

Last week, for instance, Ayatollah Khomeini struck out in strong public remarks against a liberal trend in Iran that radicals feared had gained too much momentum. Marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that ended 2,500 years of monarchy in Iran, he rejected demands for political,

social and religious reforms at home and moves to end the country's isolation.

"As long as I am alive I will not let the state fall into the hands of liberals," Khomeini declared.

Fury
On the face of it, Khomeini's statement, and the diplomatic furor triggered by his fiery over the publication of Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses,' which he charged blasphemed Islam, dramatically indicated a sharp swing back to revolutionary radicalism.

How far he will take this course is anyone's guess. But it could sharply reduce the freedom of manoeuvre of the so-called Iranian pragmatists, led by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rajsanjani, have been seeking for months to end Iran's self-imposed isolation and modernize its economy.

Opposing the pragmatists is a curious mix of revolutionary anti-Western hardliners, such as Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar

Mohtashemi, and conservative clerics who bitterly resist change.

Rajsanjani has declared that with the war over, "we must enter a new phase... we should call the past decade of stabilization of the revolution and the second decade one of development and economic independence."

The strongest call for change has come from Ayatollah Ali Hussein Montazeri, Khomeini's designated successor. He called for a candid re-evaluation of the revolution's achievements and stressed the need "to make up for past mistakes."

Murdering

"People in the world got the idea that our business in Iran was murdering people," he said in an apparent reference to reports that thousands of dissidents have been executed in recent months.

"Instead of safeguarding the values of the revolution we shouted slogans," Montazeri said. "Instead of providing value to the people, we only made more and more of the intelligent and active people more and more dis-

gruntled and isolated."

Some Iranians have seen Montazeri's criticism as a sign of imminent liberalization after 10 difficult years in which the revolution survived bloody internal strife, the grueling Gulf war and international hostility.

But Khomeini's bitter denunciation of liberal trends and criticism of the leadership appeared to dash those hopes. And the powerful "bazaaris," the wealthy Tehran merchants who still have a strong hold on the economy, already had been questioning the sincerity of the liberalization process.

"They admit their mistakes, but they never do anything to correct them, and the biggest mistake is the continuation of the mullahs in office," one prominent merchant said.

Khomeini himself, however, has ordered liberalization in some fields. He freed thousands of prisoners in a general amnesty earlier this month and has permitted the formation of political parties under legislation shelved

Kim cult intense in North Korea

By Cindy Li

PYONGYANG, (AP) The first glimpse into the cult of President Kim Il Sung comes as soon as visitors get off the plane at Pyongyang.

A huge portrait of the man who has led this communist nation for four decades greets them from atop the airport terminal. That is just the beginning.

Universities, stadiums and squares are named after Kim. An impressive 20 metre (65-foot) bronze statue of him graces the Pyongyang city centre. The country is dotted with buildings erected to celebrate his birthday (April 15, 1912) or mark his achievements.

Many adults in Pyongyang wear Kim pins on their clothes. "No one will choose not to wear the great leader's picture because we all respect him," a tour guide named Park told a group of visitors from Hong Kong.

When the visitors asked if they could get a Kim pin as a souvenir, tour guide Yoon Mu Ho responded: "We cannot give it or sell it to you because only followers of Kim and his juche idea are entitled to wear this badge."

The juche idea is the 76-year-old Kim's guiding philosophy of political and economic self-reliance.

At one model school shown to the visitors from Hong Kong, every classroom has a picture of Kim in a gold-coloured frame. In a hotel in Kaesong, 135 kms (85 miles) southeast of Pyongyang, Kim's picture is in every hotel room as well as the restaurant.

The "great leader" also is a constant companion in train and subway stations, as well as in train and subway cars.

In paintings portraying Kim receiving foreign visitors, he

always stands confidently while the guests bow or approach him. None show the disfiguring lump that bulges from his neck.

The official Pyongyang Sinmun (Pyongyang News) uses slightly larger and darker type for Kim's name; his speeches are printed in bold letters. State-run television regularly runs documentaries on his achievements.

The capital is filled with banners and slogans wishing the "great leader" a long, healthy life.

Dynasty

Kim, who has led his country since the Korean peninsula was split into a communist North and capitalist South at the end of World War II, plans to hand power over to his eldest son, 47-year-old Kim Jong Il, in what would be the world's first communist dynasty.

Official publications began

praising the younger Kim in 1971, calling him "dear leader." The Pyongyang News also uses larger type for Kim Jong Il's name. In some places, his picture hangs beside his father's.

Even Kim Il Sung's parents and grandparents are glorified in North Korea as part of the "revolutionary family." Tourists often are given a tour of Mangyongdae, the village where the leader was born and spent his childhood. Family pictures and farming tools used by his relatives are exhibited as a revolutionary guide praises each family member.

His official biography says Kim was born to a man who fought against the Japanese occupiers. He joined the communist parties of China and the Soviet Union and fought in the Soviet Red Army against the Nazis.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1664 — France and Brandenburg form alliance.
- 1836 — Alamo mission in San Antonio, Texas, falls to Mexican Army after 13-day siege in which Davy Crockett and 186 other defenders die.
- 1922 — United States prohibits export of arms to China.
- 1933 — Poland occupies port of Danzig.
- 1945 — German city of Cologne falls to US First Army in World War II.
- 1946 — France recognizes Vietnam as free state within Indo-China federation.
- 1953 — G.M. Malenkov succeeds the late Joseph Stalin as premier of Soviet Union.
- 1957 — Two former British colonies of Gold Coast and Togoland form independent West African nation of Ghana; Israeli troops hand over Gaza Strip to United Nations force.
- 1962 — United States pledges to defend Thailand against direct communist aggression without waiting for action by Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.
- 1965 — US Defence Department announces that 3,500 Marines are being sent to South Vietnam — first US ground combat troops committed to fighting against communist guerrillas.
- 1970 — Alexander Dubcek, former Czech Communist Party boss, is suspended from party.
- 1971 — South Vietnamese report capture of key communist supply hub in Sepone (Tehepone) on Ho Chi Minh trail in southern Laos.
- 1973 — Terrorist raid on a Tel Aviv hotel leaves 14 dead.
- 1987 — Rudolf Hess, 92-year-old former Hitler deputy and last imprisoned leader of Nazi Germany, is in British military hospital with pneumonia.
- 1988 — Thousands of Tibetans demanding independence set fires throughout their capital city of Lhasa.

بەخێرێکە

Depressed? Take one loving dolphin and plenty of water

By Kate Saunders

GREY-HAIRED Dr Horace Dobbs has found an amazing way of helping people with mental problems... he asks them to go for a swim with a loving, caring dolphin.

He has been so successful with the cases of three "clinically depressed" people, that Horace, aged 56, has launched a project called Operation Sunflower to help millions of patients all over the world.

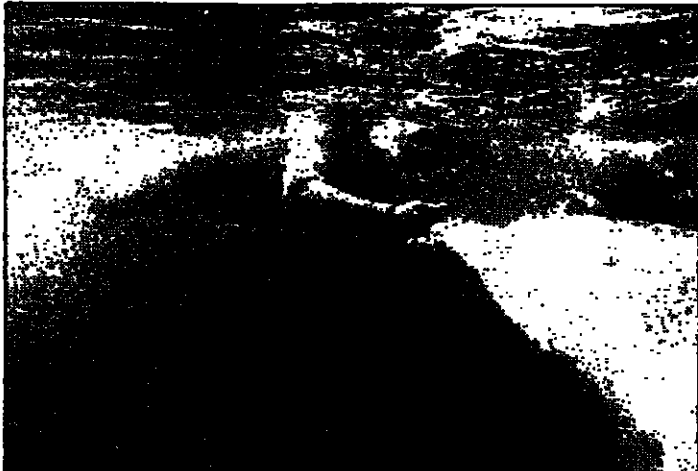
For the doctor believes dolphins, the gentle giants of the deep, have a magic touch which achieves what doctors and drugs cannot. He told me: "Very sensitive people become depressed. And these are the people who seem to pick up the aura of peace surrounding dolphins better than most."

"They forge a very deep relationship. There has never been so much love in one animal as there is in a dolphin. It seems able to pass on the beauty of living under the sea to humans."

"For people who are very depressed, swimming with a dolphin is a very emotional experience. The dolphin senses that, and is gentle."

Dr Dobbs, who has a degree in chemistry and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, is now one of the world's leading experts on the gentle giants of the deep. And he has written a book about the creatures whom, he believes, can work medical miracles.

Dr Horace Dobbs, a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, found a revolutionary way of helping people with severe mental problems. He sends them off for a swim with a friendly dolphin.



Bill Bowell, who suffered from clinical depression, meets a dolphin.



Dr Horace Dobbs

'Dolphins can teach us the joy of playing simply and living in freedom without possessions. People who swim with a wild dolphin, experience a feeling of pure love and pure joy.'

Afterwards Bill recalled: "It was an experience I never want to forget. It was like a heavy weight being taken from my shoulders. I was able to open up my heart again."

"I know there is magic in a dolphin. He seems to be saying, 'Come and share my world. I am lonely, too.'"

Dorad successfully took on two more of Horace's cases. He applied his magic touch to Jemima, who was depressed and anorectic, and Neil, feeling down about his job.

Neil, aged 25, from Camblesforth, Yorkshire, explained: "The dolphin left such a deep mental impression that, when I'm feeling low, I just think of that. It makes me realise I'm not alone. If I can communicate with a dolphin, I can communicate with people."

Horace told me: "Dolphins can teach us the joy of playing simply, and living in freedom without possessions. People who swim with a wild dolphin experience a feeling of pure love and pure joy."

Emotional

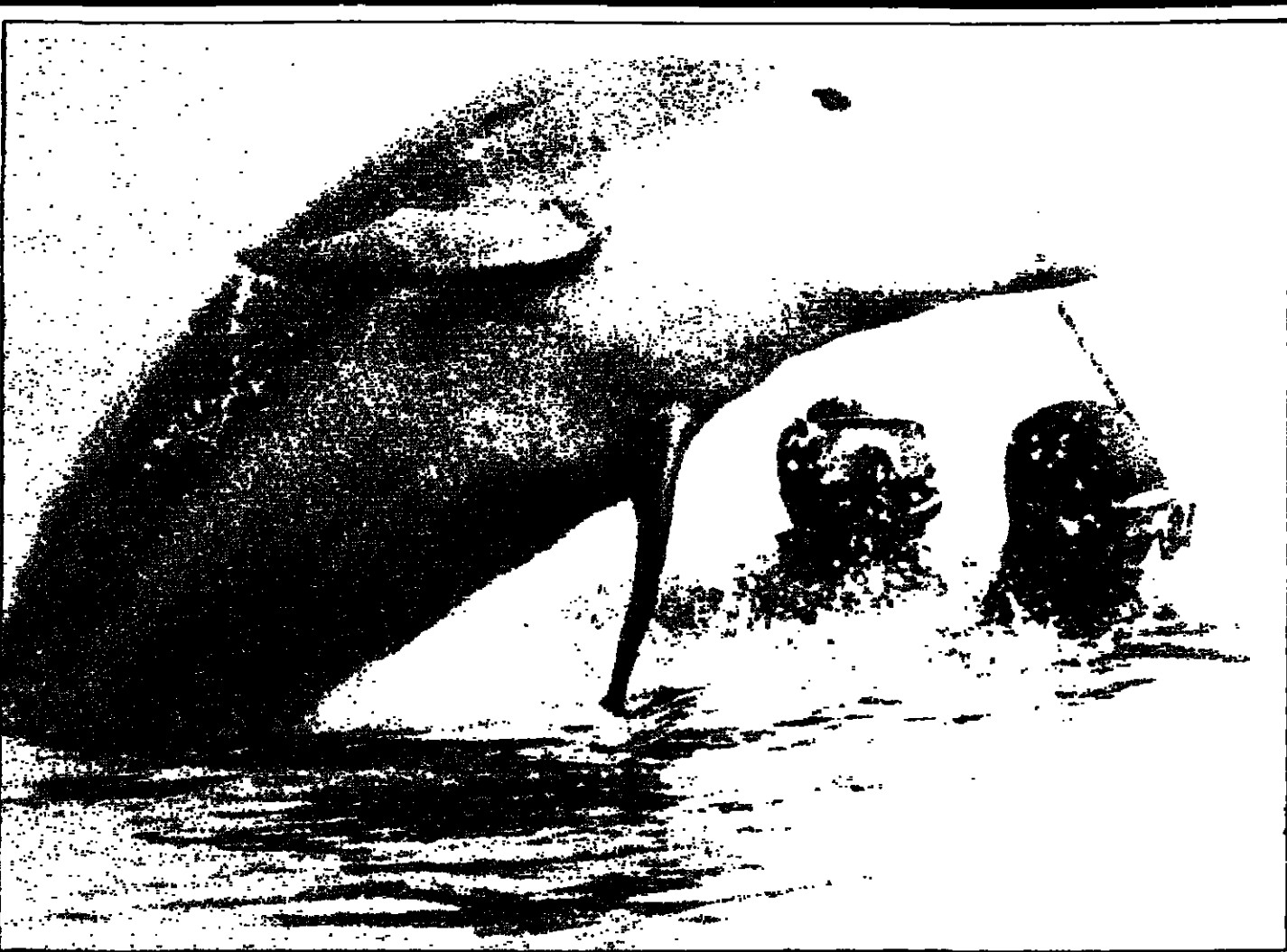
"It is often very emotional for them. And sometimes it is almost a religious experience. In Ireland once I watched a 71-year-old nun swim with a dolphin. It was as if the call had come from an ancestral past."

But finding the right sort of dolphin to help the people with their problems is not easy. They have to be solitary and friendly to humans... and there is only a handful of dolphins like that in the world.

Whenever Horace gets the tip that there is a magic monster around, he takes off for any part of the world at a moment's notice. And he knows that the research that has been his life for 12 years can be dangerous, too.

Horace told me: "A half-ton dolphin can break a human's limbs like matchsticks. Dolphins can easily kill people by ramming their bodies with their beaks. That is the method reported to be used by dolphins to kill sharks."

"But, even so, I have never seen a dolphin acting aggressively. When I swim with a dol-



Dorad the dolphin leaps over two patients.

phin, we have fantastic, rough and tumble time."

And Horace believes he owes his life to a female dolphin called Jean-Louis. He tells in his book how the drama happened when he was swimming with the dolphin off the Brittany coast.

He recalled: "Suddenly, a dark shadow passed over the scene. I looked up — and couldn't believe my eyes. A giant basking shark was passing overhead."

Horace panicked and swam as fast as he could to warn Peter, the underwater cameraman. They both stared upwards — and sighed in relief. With a flick of her fins, Jean-Louis swam quickly upwards and escorted the shark firmly out of her territory.

Horace, who has published more than 30 scientific papers, admits that his biggest insight into what makes the great beasts tick came from a strictly non-academic experiment.

He decided to introduce a woman who had never swum in the sea before, Tricia Kirkham,

to a dolphin called Percy off Portreath, Cornwall.

Horace said: "Tricia was trying to master snorkelling when Percy came up underneath her. She was absolutely terrified. She put her hands down so that they rested on his head and he swam very slowly forwards, so that they were gliding through the water. Slowly, she began to relax and then positively enjoyed the experience."

"When she later lay on an inflatable boat, Percy came up and rested his head on her lap. Tricia bent forward and kissed him."

Psyche

"In that afternoon Tricia, a completely unqualified, non-scientific person, had instantly and intuitively understood more about the dolphin psyche than I had in ten years of painstaking investigation. I could not define it in simple terms — but Tricia Kirkham called it simply 'love'."

young, male or female. He gave her an absolutely pure love that made her feel wonderful inside. It was a gift from the gods."

Now Horace wants millions of people all over the world to share that healing gift of joy. He explained: "We want to find out why dolphins have such an uplifting effect on the human spirit."

"We know that they are the only creatures to have brains as big as those of humans, and that they have been endowed with them for millions of years longer than us. And you don't have a large brain for nothing."

"Dolphins have a huge cerebral cortex, which is the part of our brain which comes into play when we enjoy beautiful music and art."

"They haven't music or art, but they have an incredibly beautiful environment in which, unlike us, they have learned to live in harmony. Dolphins haven't manipulated it, or created things and therefore all the problems that go with pos-

sions. I believe they have a lot to teach us."

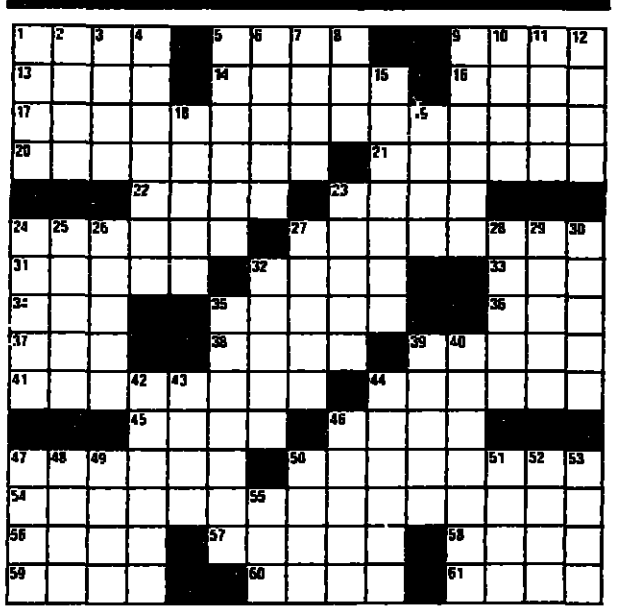
That is why Horace has travelled all over the world, filming dolphins in all their moods for Operation Sunflower. With its relaxing accompaniment of "music from the deep", the doctor hopes it will bring peace to millions of disturbed patients.

How did he arrive at the sunny name of his revolutionary project? Horace explained: "We have called it Operation Sunflower because the special quality of dolphins is as elusive as a sunflower. And when chronic depressive Bill emerged after a swim with a dolphin, Tricia told him he had 'blossomed like a sunflower'."

Now the doctor is hoping that his unique brand of medicine, taken in salt water and a helping of gentle giants, will work magic for people who have long forgotten how to play and be happy."

A Tale of Two Dolphins by Dr Horace Dobbs (Jonathan Cape £9.95)

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Separate
 - 5 Genus of bees
 - 9 German admiral
 - 13 Expression of understanding
 - 14 African language
 - 16 Ponderosa man
 - 17 Bogart-Hepburn film
 - 20 Brats
 - 21 Bone or fish
 - 22 Coup d'
 - 23 Jan
 - 24 Carpeted again
 - 27 — hole
 - 31 Soaring
 - 32 Solver's favorite ox
 - 33 — polio
 - 34 Limb
 - 35 John French — American painter
 - 36 Unit for a physicist
 - 37 — bad boy Lou Costello
 - 38 Trapper's prize
 - 39 Actress Bernard
 - 41 American flycatcher
 - 44 Most minute
 - 45 It — necessarily so
 - 46 Orderly
 - 47 Blue blood
 - 50 Partisan on a ship
 - 54 Versatile one
 - 56 He wrote The Morning Watch
 - 57 Beer head
 - 58 Fence entrance
 - 59 What's left
 - 60 Parker of Daniel Boone
 - 61 Noisy jets
- DOWN**
- 1 Significance
 - 2 Arthur of tennis
 - 3 Scottish dance
 - 4 Read by a gypsy
 - 5 Go —, travel
 - 6 Do art work
 - 7 Corp
 - 8 RR stop
 - 9 Enclose
 - 10 Byron, for one
 - 11 Donkey, in Frankfurt
 - 12 Slave of yore
 - 15 Dirty
 - 18 — in, schedule
 - 19 Seine river sight
 - 23 — made him — of many colors
 - 24 Part of the Marshall Islands
 - 25 Resin
 - 26 Ella of note
 - 27 — sweet
 - 28 Over — dances
 - 29 dances
 - 30 Octet
 - 32 Wide awake
 - 35 Show from a show
 - 39 In or out follower
 - 40 Nonetheless
 - 42 Liquid sealer
 - 43 Scrubby tree of Asia
 - 44 Clyde and Forth
 - 46 Loses in pinball
 - 47 Slightly open
 - 48 Be furious
 - 49 Summer refreshers
 - 50 Sheet of ice at sea
 - 51 Lemon additives
 - 52 Baltic native
 - 53 WW II landing craft
 - 55 Sandy's sound

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MADAM ABAS CASA
AMINO DONE ORAL
NOMAD OMER VINE
EIKE ELBOWGREASE
BRIE EARR
ACTUAL ADAPTERS
LEAST SPAN MIA
INTHEREPITCHING
ATE ELLS HELGA
SORDIDLY CARESS
ORO MAID
KNUCKLEDOWN EBB
HONK ERLIN SADIE
ANTE NINA ASIDE
TOOT TIED WAITER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
USUALLY RIGHT, SOMETIMES WRONG

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 5 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A K Q J
♣ A K Q 10

WEST
♠ 10 6 3
♥ K Q 10 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ 8 7 4

EAST
♠ Q 8
♥ A J 9
♦ 10 7 6 3
♣ J 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 9 7 4
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥
All those wise saws and scholarly rubrics you learned at your mother's knee cover general situations. Any specific deal could call for one of them to be broken.

We are not sure we like a jump shift on the North hand despite its point count. Not that it made any difference to the final contract, which was reasonable.

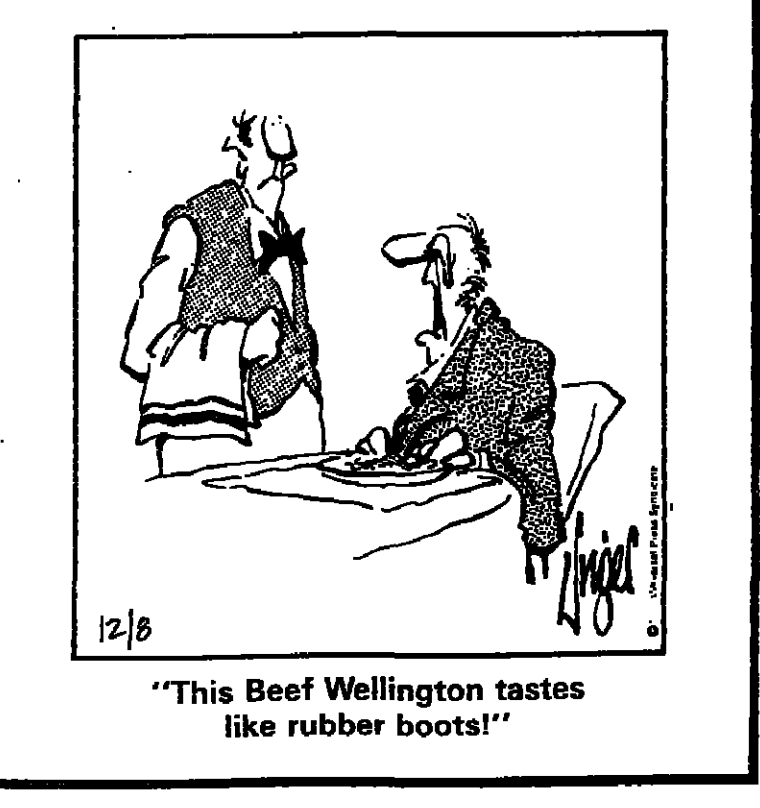
West led the king of hearts and, in response to his partner's encouraging signal, continued with a low heart. East took his ace and re-

turned the nine of hearts to his partner's ten. West shifted to a club. Declarer won, cashed the king of spades and returned to dummy with a diamond. When the queen of trumps appeared on the next lead of the suit, declarer could claim the rest of the tricks.

West's defense was, to say the least, lackluster. One look at dummy was all he should have needed to convince himself that the defenders were not going to collect any tricks in the minor suits. Therefore, the setting trick, if there was one, would have to come from trumps.

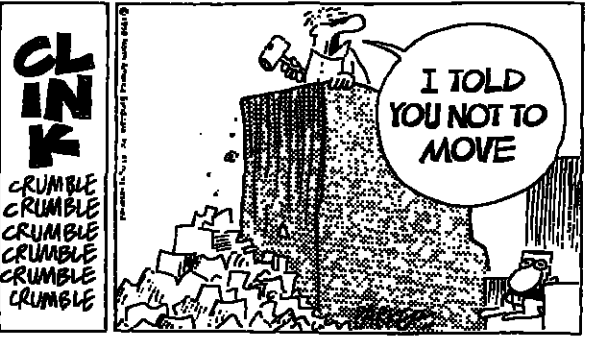
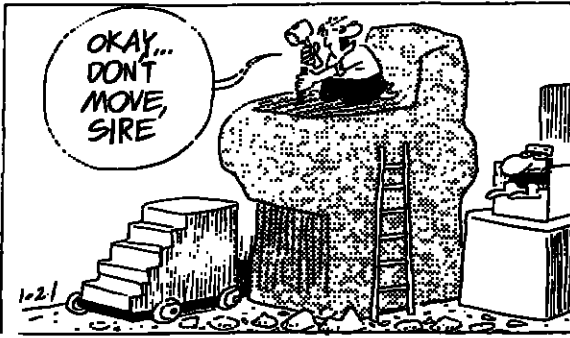
A secondary trump honor in the East hand, on its own, would not be enough — it would be ripe for decapitation via a successful finesse. But combined with West's ten, it would pose a powerful threat.

We were all taught not to give declarer a ruff-and-discard, but here it could not harm, only help. West should have continued with his last heart. The fact that his partner was giving declarer a ruff-sluff should be a clear signal to East that he must ruff as high as he possibly can — in this case, with the queen. Declarer can overruff, but West's ten would then be promoted to the setting trick. Borrowing a term from pugilism, this play is known as an uppercut.



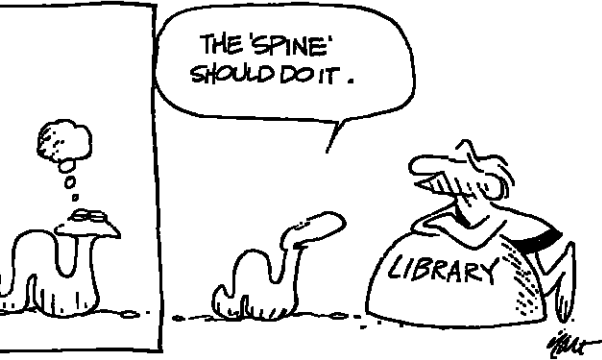
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will find your friends more sympathetic towards you. You have no time to do all you would like to do so stick to essentials. You will have to do something that is not likely to make you popular but you must not shrink it. Be amenable.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will tire more easily so do what is most important first. Do not allow a trivial matter to become all important. Your lucky numbers are 48 and 3. Something you had feared will not now happen. Be tactful.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The situation is rather confused and you should do your best to straighten things out. You will have more success than you considered possible. You should not try to have your way in all things — give and take. Be reliable.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be better able to persuade others to your point of view. This is going to be an interesting day for you only you must not judge by appearances. Have a little more faith in yourself and stick to your principles. Be resilient.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will feel rather tense and should do all you can to relax, but no stimulants. The solution to a problem lies in a different direction than you are seeking it. Do not waste time, but do not rush things either. Be reasonable.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should try not to make a mountain out of a molehill. Make sure you do not allow your emotions to run away with you. This is not your lucky day, so if you gamble at all, only moderately. Be frugal.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You should beware of letting the cat out of the bag and you should not play your trump card. Others may not always have your best interests in mind. Better slowly but steadily than by bumps and starts. Be helpful.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should make sure you do not get in your own, or for that matter in anyone else's way. You are liable to overreact and should try to correct the tendency. You must act promptly if you do not want to waste a good opportunity.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

The influences are mixed but with a little effort you will be able to stay out of serious trouble. You must not try to evade your responsibilities. Others will be more inclined to listen to what you have to say. Be more tolerant.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You should try to get a move on but that does not mean attempting to cut corners. Others will try to set a trap for you but you will find them out. You should not become involved in something that does not really concern you. Be hopeful.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

The Moon's better influence will help you to overcome tension. You will be able to deal with a matter that has been causing you difficulties. Make sure you are not a nuisance and do not permit others to annoy you. Be sensible.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Venus' more favourable influence will help you to deal with a personal problem. You will have a good idea but it requires some further thought. You should persevere instead of giving up at the slightest sign of an obstacle.



The swimming pool by David Hockney.

David Hockney at 50: still popular, prolific

By Lyndsey Callender

LONDON: "I was born in Bradford in 1937. Until I went to the local council school. Then I went to Bradford Grammar School on a scholarship. I was not really happy there. At the age of 11 I had decided in my mind, that I wanted to be an artist."

Forty years on, David Hockney is the most popular and prolific British artist of his generation. His range of subjects, materials and styles seems limitless. His paintings are represented in collections throughout the world, and his public persona — dyed blond hair, owlish spectacles and boyish manner — is legendary.

Yet David Hockney is only 50, with a long career ahead of him. His success has done nothing to change the candour and stoicism of the 11-year-old boy from Bradford in west Yorkshire, northern England.

Fine art as such did not feature in Hockney's early years but his awareness of the visual world was probably inherited from his father, who painted posters and lettered signs, and on one occasion covered all the doors in their house with painted sunsets.

Opportunity
Hockney left school at 16 and spent the next four years at Bradford School of Art, revelling in the opportunity of devoting himself to drawing and painting.

From Bradford, where the training was relatively insular and academic, Hockney progressed to the Royal College of Art (RCA) in London, where his fellow students included artists as talented as Allen Jones and R.B. Kitaj. Kitaj was a few years older than the others and had first-hand knowledge of contemporary American painting, and it was he who introduced the American fascination for popular imagery. So it was that a school of British pop art came into being.

Much of Hockney's work of this period was made in a simple style, with the scribbled, unfinished look of children's art or of graffiti. "We Two Boys Together

Success has done nothing to change the candour and stoicism of this native of Yorkshire who started the school of British pop art.

Clinging" of 1961 is a typical example. It incorporates his quirky device of writing words on a painting, and it is also an early example of the theme of homosexuality, which recurs throughout his work.

After graduating from the RCA, Hockney made his visit to the city that was to become his home and the inspiration for his best-known images — Los Angeles. There he found a sense of liberation, both personal and artistic.

The first of Hockney's swimming pool paintings dates from this period, another leitmotif of his work. Hockney was fascinated by the representation of water, its surface reflecting the light in snaking patterns of blue and white, or distorting the bodies of his swimmers. Swimming pools, palm trees, lawn sprinklers and cube-like villas became symbols of Los Angeles and all it stood for.

At their best, the paintings of this period are exuberant and inventive, as in "Portrait of an Artist" of 1971. But others are flat and lifeless — not helped by his exclusive use of acrylic paint at that time.

More interesting, more penetrating and thoughtful, are Hockney's double-portraits of the late 1960s. They depict people whom he knew and understood, which explains the new humanity that they reveal, and their naturalism. "Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy", one of his most familiar images, proves the point.

Satisfied
Hockney has never been satisfied unless he is exploring a new avenue, taking on a new challenge, or stretching a medium to new limits. By the early 1970s his pursuit of naturalism had reached an impasse. Then in 1975 he received a commission that gave him a renewed sense of direction:

the design of Stravinsky's opera "The Rake's Progress" for a production at Glyndebourne, Sussex, southeast England. Hockney's love of music and theatre, and his resourcefulness, resulted in a highly-acclaimed stage design on this occasion and on many more to come.

In 1981 Hockney received a rare commission for designing stage and costume for two evenings of opera and dance at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The first comprised three French works: Jean Cocteau's ballet "Parade" set to music by Eric Satie, Poulenc's comic opera "Les Mamelles de Tirésias" based on a play by Apollinaire, and Ravel's one-act opera "L'Enfant et les sortilèges" based on a story by Colette. The second evening consisted of three works by Stravinsky: "Le Sacre du Printemps", "Le Rossignol" and "Oedipus Rex". In each case Hockney weighed up the needs of the medium, the subject and his own creative input, and found a perfect balance.

The early 1980s saw the short-lived but prolific period of Hockney's photographic collages. In subject they ranged from portraits to landscapes, from buildings and roads to groups of figures. What they had in common was the rejection of a single viewpoint in favour of a multiple one — the cubism of photography as it were.

Hockney devoted reel upon reel of film to a single subject, seen from different angles, then assembled them, some overlapping, others repeating. It was a selective process in which he, the artist, could choose which areas to highlight and which moments to depict. In "The Scrambled Game", for example, he juxtaposes pictures taken over a short time, so that we are presented with a single player looking pensive, then downcast, then inspired.

As a concept, Hockney's photocollages are original and witty. As an art form, they have definite limitations. One exception is "My Mother, Bolton Abbey", set against the ruined abbey and grey gravestones, she sits, hands sunk deep into the pockets of her ordinary, hooded raincoat — an affectionate image of her age and frailty.

Abandoned
Hockney abandoned photocollage in 1986, and has since become interested in making home-made prints on photocopies.

Amid the fame and recognition, Hockney has received his fair share of criticism. Or perhaps not so fair. He has been accused variously of superficiality, of being an illustrator rather than an artist, and of being lightweight. Certainly his output is unequal in quality, but at its best — take "My Parents" as an example — it is expressive, well-composed, intelligent and tender. Elsewhere he is humorous, spontaneous and bold. The entire range of his work bears his very individual stamp.

Maybe the criticism from critics and cognoscenti derives from that strange distrust of anything that is straightforward, understandable, and above all joyful. Hockney appeals to everyday emotions: he communicates with ordinary people; he wants to be understood — and he is.

"When I was 11, my father was painting old bicycles. I used to watch him. The fascination of the brush dipping in the paint, putting it on, I love that even now. I loved it then."

That delight and fascination, and that ingenious joy, still shine through Hockney's work today. Thirty years of unstinting productivity have passed, and there may be as many to come.

Italy seeks cash for unearthing buried treasure

By Clare Lovell

HERCULANEUM, Italy. (Reuters) Italy is hoping that with the help of international cash it will unearth some of the finest surviving treasures of the ancient world, buried for 1,900 years under volcanic mud and lava.

The Roman city of Herculaneum, destroyed by the same devastating eruption of Vesuvius that swept over nearby Pompeii in 79 A.D., has been only partially excavated. Archaeologists believe exceptional examples of classical architecture lie almost intact beneath the debris of centuries.

"If we could uncover the city, it would be magnificent, and much more valuable than Pompeii," said professor Baldassare Conticello, chief custodian of the two archaeological sites just south of Naples.

Idea

At the beginning of this century the idea of seeking funds abroad to excavate the sites was turned down as an affront to national dignity. Today every effort is made to stimulate foreign interest in Italy's ancient heritage.

The professor said Herculaneum was less well-known than Pompeii with its famous erotic wall paintings, largely because of the small size and inaccessibility of the site.

"Herculaneum is buried under 27 metres (88 feet) of solidified lava so it's very difficult and expensive to excavate whereas Pompeii, which was covered in ash, was uncovered in some places just by hand," he said.

Conticello added that the Pompeii site was entirely owned by the state and had been excavated, but as much as two thirds of Herculaneum lay under private farm land or the bustling streets of modern Ercolano.

"Gradually we have been buying up little parcels of land, but



The Roman city of Herculaneum, destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. Italy hopes to generate international funds to unearth the classic treasures that lie underneath.

many of the locals aren't interested in selling — they aren't interested in what lies underneath," he said.

"We think one of the main streets of Herculaneum lies under the main street of the new city, so we can't get at that."

But the treasures that have been discovered since excavations began in earnest in the 1920s, and that are still painstakingly being brought to light by Conticello's team, represent a wealth of classical art and architecture.

Seaside villas of rich families from Rome and Naples, with magnificent terraces and delicately painted frescoes, stand beside shops and bars still containing the wine flagons and bread ovens of ancient times.

Overlooked

Among the pine trees of the cobbled streets, overlooked by the ramshackle modern buildings of Ercolano, stand an ancient brothel with its lewd wall-paintings and two mosaic-covered bath-houses with sophisticated water-heating systems.

Even wooden beams and furniture were preserved at Herculaneum, carbonised by the intense heat of the eruption. Whole houses are intact, giving a

vivid impression of how people lived.

At Pompeii, further from the volcano, all the wood burned, while at Herculaneum archaeologists have found a child's cradle, beds, and elegant furniture with delicate carved legs.

In the little port, now some 400 metres (yards) from the sea, the wreck of a wooden ship lies alongside sewers where hundreds of terrified citizens vainly sought shelter from the advancing molten lava.

Four piled skeletons are one of the most gruesome finds at Herculaneum.

Conticello's newest project, for which an international appeal is being launched, involves the excavation of what was probably the town's most luxurious villa. Archaeologists believe it may have belonged to Julius Caesar's father-in-law.

The villa Dei Papyri was originally discovered by 18th century archaeologists. They dug several wells through the rock to try to reach it, but abandoned the project after several workmen were killed by poisonous gases.

Conticello believes the villa has three terraces at different levels down to the beach, with

panoramic views of the Mediterranean, a swimming pool, a network of rooms decorated with mosaics and paintings and extensive gardens.

He recently returned from a trip to America to seek financial help for his project. "We need 171 million dollars. There has already been some interest in Italy and overseas. We are working on it," he said.

Finance for the general upkeep of Herculaneum and Pompeii and continuing excavations comes from the government, which sets aside two billion lire (1.4 million dollars) a year.

But the money is quickly used up.

"We hope to get an extra grant in March to restore some of Herculaneum's excavated buildings. They were last done in the 30s and some of their supports are crumbling," Conticello said.

Vesuvius casts a still menacing shadow over the town. Since its most devastating eruptions in 79 and 1631, the volcano has kept relatively quiet, but it continues periodically to spew out rock and smoke.

The local people are philosophical. "We don't think about it happening again. I suppose we just hope it won't," a Herculaneum guide said.

Warhol's pop art world on show

By Peter Elsworth

NEW YORK. (Reuters) Square silver balloons floating above a corridor wallpapered with yellow and blue cow's heads give an instant introduction to the pop art world of the late Andy Warhol.

Warhol, who dominated the 1960s New York art scene and introduced the world to the artistic qualities of soup cans and other mundane objects, is the subject of a blockbuster show at the Museum of Modern Art here.

The show fills two floors of the museum and features some 300 paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and films by Warhol, who died on February 22, 1987, following surgery in New York.

The first floor of the show appropriately displays a number of self-portraits of the artist, who made a cult out of himself and his white louche, but always remain aloof and detached.

"He was the most deadpan personality I've ever met, totally silent, poker-faced, passive, a total sphinx," art historian

Robert Rosenblum said, adding that "talking, if you can call it talking, to him was like talking to a brilliant mute."

"I don't like to touch things, that's why my work is so distant from myself," the artist once said.

Typically, the portraits are dominated by multiple images of the same photograph, silkscreened onto canvas and painted in bold, flat colours.

Enigmatic
The most enigmatic series, a face with Warhol holding two fingers to his lips, dates from 1967. In the most dramatic image, which serves as an introduction to the show, his face is coloured by a pink, red and white camouflage design.

Warhol was born Andrew Warhol in Forest City, Pennsylvania, on August 6, 1928, to Czech immigrant parents. He studied art in Pittsburgh and moved to New York in 1949 to work as a commercial artist.

Centered the world of fine art in 1961 by using five of his paintings for department store window display.

Many of Warhol's paintings from this early period are on display at the museum.

Mostly scraps of commercial graffiti taken from newspaper ads for objects such as windows, wigs, shoes and vacuum cleaners, the images are mainly black and white, painted by hand and often unfinished.

However, as the show progresses, the images become starker and the bold colours of commercial design begin to appear.

Warhol's best work is generally considered to have been done in the mid-1960s, when he worked out of a studio in New York known as The Factory.

There he produced repeated silkscreened images of such everyday objects as dollar bills, Coca-Cola bottles and boxes of Brillo pads.

These culminated in the familiar rows of Campbell's soup cans and portraits of such cultural icons as Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe, all of which are on display.

"Warhol was a graphic artist with a background in advertising. He knew how to capture the



Andy Warhol: enigmatic artist

attention of people, how to use the same object repeated 24 times rather than a single image," said David Bourdon, an art critic whose biography Warhol is due out this autumn.

Warhol's flat-colour, dispassionate style was in direct contrast to the emotional, hands-on approach of the abstract expressionist school of the 1950s epitomised by Jackson Pollock.

"The pop artists did images that anybody walking down Broadway could recognise in a split second — comics, picnic tables, men's trousers, celebrities, shower curtains, refrigerators, Coke bottles — all the great modern things that the abstract expressionists tried to hard not to notice at all," Warhol once said.

Major art discovery of the century

By Godfrey Barker

FORTY unknown drawings by William Blake were unveiled at Christie's auction house in London recently. It was the Blake discovery of the 20th century.

The drawings are part of a 49-leaf album dating from 1819, the year of the poet and painter's strangest visionary project.

Under the influence of the artist John Varley, Blake convinced himself that people's faces and features were determined by the signs of the Zodiac and drew a gallery of portraits to prove it.

A man who apparently owns no other important books or works of art came to Christie's front desk in King Street, St James', and produced the album from a brown envelope.



The Black Prince.

"He knew it was by Blake but had no idea of its uniqueness or importance," said Anthony Browne, Christie's English drawings expert.

"When we hinted at its possible value — we are saying, for so unique an item, over £500,000 — he was, if I may say so, as astonished as we were to see it."

The drawings, which will be auctioned in London in March 21, arise from one of the Romantic Movement's weirdest and most phantasmagoric episodes.

Blake and Varley were fascinated by the 18th century idea that vice, virtue, failure and greatness are written into human physiognomy, and they met night after night to hold seances aimed at summoning up the great faces of history. In deft and decisive ink



Colonel Blood.

and pencil drawings, Blake set them down.

Varley lay on a couch in — trance and mouthed name while Blake called up the spirits. Several "angel-visits" were interrupted by uninvited guests; the spirit of Edward I barged in while Blake was drawing William Wallace; Corinna the Theban was elbowed out by Luis the Courtesan.

Numerous others from heaven and hell jockeyed for posthumous fame before the artist.

Some woken from sleep were less obliging. The Empress Maud (Queen Matilda, Stephen's wife) told Blake she could not endure "to be considered as a vapour arising from your food."

Despite this supernatural craving for publicity, only two of



Charles Magne.

Blake's images were published. They appear in Varley's *Treatise on Zodiacal Physiognomy* of 1828, among the worst widely-ignored books ever written.

Though the faces — from the Athenian tyrant Peisistratus and Potiphar's wife in ancient history to Colonel Blood, thief of the Crown Jewels, in the 1670s — are well enough known, Blake's drawings of them could be by no one else.

Staring eyes and fearless gazes, gigantic foreheads, curled brows and an air of destiny are common to all.

The visions summoned up are the Romantic Movement's idea of history as the story of heroes — the men and women who, by chance or determination, changed the fate of humanity.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr Allan Bruckheim

CONFUSED ABOUT VITAMIN NEEDS

QUESTION: Although I realize vitamins are important, I must admit that I'm totally confused about which ones I need and how much to take. One of my friends claims that you can't get enough vitamins and takes massive doses to prevent cancer. Can you help me chart a sane course?

ANSWER: If history can help predict the future, this answer will provoke a wide variety of mail, with most of the writers telling me how little I really know and offering to write the column for me. And though I think I have already heard it all, there will be new stories of how someone escaped sure death by ignoring the advice of a traditional physician and accepting the claims of a modern day snake-oil merchant.

Vitamins are truly remarkable chemicals when used for a specific reason or purpose. They were originally discovered as being the necessary component of a diet to cure a deficiency disease, an ailment actually caused by the lack of sufficient vitamins. Scurvy in sailors on those romantic old square-riggers was overcome with citrus juice (limes, lemons and oranges) because it was a fine source of Vitamin C. Incidentally that is how British sailors, and the all Eng-

lish became known as "limeys." Citrus was made part of the marine diet to overcome the disease.

Most of the other vitamins were discovered in like manner, as the needed substance in the diet to overcome a deficiency disease. About 40 per cent of the adult American population takes additional vitamins and minerals on a daily basis, and with such a large population, misuse may often occur. An RDA (or Recommended Daily Allowance) has been established as "the levels of essential nutrients considered in the judgment of the Committee on Dietary Allowances of the Food and Nutrition Board on the basis of available scientific knowledge, to be adequate to meet the known nutritional needs of practically all healthy persons."

They provide a solid base for all needs, as we may then increase the amounts where specific deficiency conditions exist, as in pregnancy, poor health or poor nutrition. Vitamins used in these cases are considered "therapeutic agents" rather than "nutritional supplements." Currently there is no vitamin that is known to cure or prevent cancer. Your pharmacist or physician will be happy to indicate the

proper quantity of vitamins that fulfil your personal dietary needs.

QUESTION: I recently read a booklet about loss of hearing due to loud noises. Does that mean the dryer at my hairdresser could rob me of my hearing?

ANSWER: The effects of loud sounds upon hearing depend upon two factors, the intensity of the sound (how loud, measured in decibels) and the amount of time you are exposed to the sound. Obviously all dryers do not make the same amount of sound, but you may assume that if the noise level is high enough to interfere with understanding speech, it may be high enough to do some damage, but only if you are exposed to it for a long enough period of time.

I doubt that either the intensity or exposure time to beauty parlour hair dryers would be enough to damage your hearing. The amount of discomfort you may be suffering cannot help us evaluate the situation, since that does not relate directly to the possible damage. You may be wise, however, to obtain a pair of earplugs, or use wadded cotton in your ears to reduce your hazard.

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مكتبة مصر

A revolutionary life-saving alarm spells hope

Cot Death Syndrome: help for worried parents

After Clive Thomas' son Stephen died of the baffling Cot Death Syndrome, he was determined to try to save other babies from the same fate. Now after years of research and spending a fortune, Clive has invented a device the size of a cigarette packet that warns when a baby's temperature drops.

By Lynda Black

THE loss of a baby son from the baffling Cot Death Syndrome was a devastating tragedy for Clive Thomas.

For years afterwards he could not bear to look at a baby sleeping serenely in its cot — it terrified him.

But out of that fear has come new hope for parents afraid of a similar tragedy in their own household.

For since the death of his baby son Stephen 18 years ago, Clive's study of Cot Death Syndrome gradually became an obsession.

Now businessman turned inventor Clive has sunk £200,000 of his own money into developing a new baby monitoring device that could save thousands of lives.

Clive says: "After my own son's death I saw a new type of baby monitor on a television programme and I thought to myself: 'If only we had had one of those Stephen would still be alive.'"

"Since then I have discovered that particular type of monitor probably wouldn't have saved him as it only monitors movement and not breathing. By the time a monitor shows that the baby is not moving it is probably already dead."

"I have watched a baby's temperature drop dramatically within minutes and the baby change colour. It probably would have been classed as a cot death victim, had I not been with the baby at the time to save it."

Now Clive, along with his business partner for the past two years, Tony Roper, has devised a new type of monitor with the help of consultant paediatrician Dr Dewy Evans, of Morriston Hospital, Swansea.

So far it has involved nine years of research and six years of development. The alarm is not fully perfected yet, but we have designed it to sell at the lowest price possible.

"It will cost £95 and we hope to produce 49,000 a year. If the demand exceeds that then we will double production."

The device is the size of a cigarette packet and has a short lead coming out of it. The lead is attached to the lower part of the

body and monitors the baby's temperature, triggering an alarm to warn of any drastic changes.

Clive says: "Once I started to seriously investigate the syndrome, it took over my life. A lot of parents allowed me into their homes to carry out my research."

"I used to sit up all night with their babies, monitoring their temperature at intervals with a digital thermometer. But the long hours were destroying me."

"So my friends used to come along and help."

Clive says: "At the time I believed strongly that viruses were the cause. But I have found that a lot of babies die prior to a viral infection and the only way I could detect that, was by monitoring the temperature variations."

"I went into hundreds of homes in all sorts of environments and recorded the temperatures of the babies."

"I found that many cot deaths are also caused by a combination of viral illnesses, over-wrapping the baby and central heating."

"Some babies' temperatures I have tested have been as high as 40°C instead of 36°C — they would literally boil to death."

This theory is backed by Dr A. Stanton of Scarborough Hospital, North Yorkshire, who has published articles about over-wrapping babies. But getting credibility from the medical profession for his theories has not been easy for Clive.

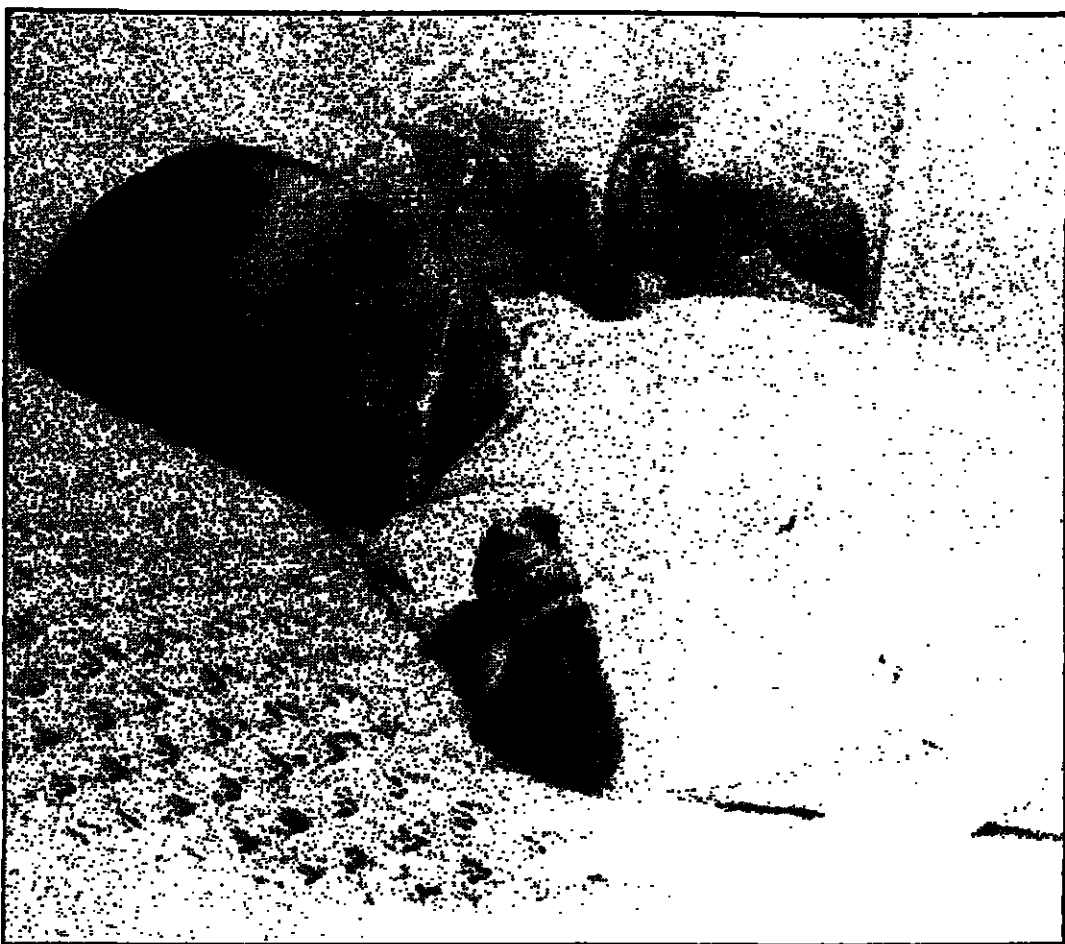
He recalls: "My obsession with research into sudden deaths has been a very gradual process. I didn't make it my goal in life after Stephen's death."

"But from that time on cot deaths seemed to crop up everywhere — on the television and in the newspapers."

"I started going to the library to find out more about the subject and started to read medical journals out of curiosity."

"But I didn't really relate cot deaths with temperature until my niece Melanie became ill when she was one year old. That was ten years."

"My mother is a great believer in keeping a sick baby in bed with her. But even in the bed, Melanie's temperature dropped and she turned blue. She was all right, but it made me think."



Baby Stephen Thomas who died of Cot Death Syndrome, a sudden affliction that still baffles doctors.

After extensive research, he took his findings to doctors. But gathering facts was one thing — convincing the medical profession was quite different.

Clive says: "When I took my recordings to doctors they would just put them into their desk drawers — and promptly forget about them."

"Since then I have spent £200,000 of my own money on the research and have almost been made bankrupt three times. But now my theory is undisputed by doctors."

"I have the only workforce totally dedicated to finding the reasons and causes of cot deaths. It has taken over their lives too."

But Clive will never forget the night Stephen died.

He says: "It happened on Friday the 13th. Stephen was five months old and had caught a heavy cold in the previous week."

"We were told by the doctor to keep him in for 14 days. This was the 12th day."

"At 12 am Stephen woke up. He was in the same bedroom as my wife and I. There was a bright moon that night and the curtains were slightly apart. A shaft of moonlight was shining across Stephen's eyes and that was what woke him up."



Clive Thomas with his invention: a baby-monitoring alarm

"I went across to see him. He was laughing and giggling. I closed the curtains and tickled him."

"The next morning we woke up late — 9.15 am. Stephen used to wake up every morning at 8 o'clock without fail. He wasn't seven feet away from us. As soon as I woke up I knew he was dead."

"That was in 1971 and the doctors could offer us no explanation why it happened. But I know for a fact, now, that the reason was that Stephen was over-wrap-

ped because the place we lived in at the time was cold."

Sadly, after Stephen's death, Clive's marriage fell apart and after seven years together he and his wife parted.

But Clive was desperate to have another child and he remarried.

He says: "My second wife and I had a boy called Shane. But I just couldn't bear to be with that baby after dark."

"I remember one night when Shane was about five months

old. I was so worried about him that, to stop myself from falling asleep, I read a book and kept my hand on his chest."

"Eventually I fell asleep myself and when I woke up I was still in the same position."

"I must have been asleep for only two or three hours, but I can't even begin to explain the fear that swept through me... the second I woke up I just broke into a sweat."

"I leapt out of the bed to check on him. He was still sleeping — but I almost frightened him to death myself!"

But for father of four Clive, 37, from Blaen-Y-Maes, Swansea, South Wales, this was the kind of fear that fuelled his passion to discover an explanation for Cot Death Syndrome — and a method of prevention.

Clive explains: "Five babies die suddenly from the syndrome every day in Britain — that's almost 2,000 a year."

"But no explanation is given to parents as to why their child has died so suddenly."

"If the baby had died from a virus you could blame the virus. If the baby was knocked down by a drink-driver, you could blame the driver. But when there is no apparent cause, parents very often blame themselves."

Clive's obsession with the subject put a heavy strain on his second marriage, and that also faltered.

He says: "My fear of the baby dying in its cot put an intolerable strain on it. It just wasn't fair for my wife to have to live like that and we broke up."

"I thought I would never be able to father a child again," says Clive. "I just didn't have the guts."

That was until Clive met Wendy, 30, his partner for the past five years. It was her daughter Rebecca that eventually cured Clive of his fears.

He says: "Rebecca was nearly two years old. She was such a happy baby, always bouncing about in her cot. Gradually, I was broken in, as it were, with her."

"Wendy is a very strong person — a lot stronger than me. She stopped me from running away all the time."

"She even made me go along to the birth when our daughter Lisa came along. I would have run away to Australia if I could! But I went and it was a moving experience."

Rebecca is now seven, Lisa is three years old and there is also little Jolene, 11 months old.

Clive adds: "She is a beautiful healthy baby — but one thing is certain, we are very careful not to over-wrap her when she has a cold."

Male infertility: new techniques result in success

By Mary Leigh

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, (UPI): A combination of Malaysian expertise, Australian know-how and American facilities has resulted in the first Asian birth using a new technique specifically designed to deal with male infertility.

The birth of a healthy 6.2-pound girl in December capped three years of unsuccessful attempts by a couple to have a baby using other fertilization techniques.

"I just burst into tears when they put her on my chest," said the 37-year-old mother, who asked to remain anonymous.

The father "rushed into the room and kissed me," she said. "He was almost in tears."

The successful technique, called pronuclear stage tubal transfer, or PROST, was developed by Dr John Yovich of Perth, Australia. It differs from other fertility programmes such as in-vitro fertilization, embryo transfer and gamete intra-fallopian transfer because it deals specifically with male infertility.

Fertilization In-vitro fertilization is designed to bypass blocked fallopian tubes while GIFT generally requires a higher sperm count than many marginally fertile men can provide.

Perth embryologist Jason Spittle said conditions like reduced sperm count, poor sperm motility and the presence of sperm antibodies in either the male or female respond well to the latest technique, which utilizes the most successful aspects of the other two systems.

Daily monitoring of hormone levels means eggs can be taken from the female's ovaries within an hour of the time when they would naturally be released.

Minor surgical techniques, including trans-vaginal ultrasound to locate the ripe follicles, are employed to remove the eggs. Spittle said 10 eggs are taken from each ovary.

Risk After mixing with the male sperm and fertilization in the test tube, the eggs are transferred to an incubator for about 24 hours before being introduced into the fallopian tubes using another minor surgical procedure.

To reduce the risk of multiple births it is usual for only four eggs to be put back, Spittle said. In the Malaysian case six were

used — three in each fallopian tube.

Close monitoring during the four days it takes for the eggs to descend and implant in the uterus continues until pregnancy is confirmed by ultrasound six to seven weeks later.

The Malaysian parents spent three years trying earlier techniques without success when they saw an advertisement for PROST.

"At first I wasn't so keen," said the mother. "I didn't want to be a guinea pig." But feeling that PROST might be their last chance, the parents decided to meet the team.

"They were very helpful and kind. They explained everything and really talked it through with us," the wife said.

Their first attempt with PROST also failed. But shortly after restarting the programme in February, the medical team confirmed a pregnancy.

"I'd waited so long for this. I kept asking myself, can it be true?" she said.

Excited "We were really excited because history was being made," said consultant embryologist Jeff Yow. "The greatest reward in this job is to see a couple having their first baby."

The Perth medical facility, known as programmed in-vitro fertilization and embryo transfer, or PRIVET, organised extensive training for the Malaysian team before setting up their programme at an American-run hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

The Los Angeles-based National Medical Enterprises Hospital is the only one in Malaysia operated to US standards. The technique cost about \$5,000 from initial assessment until confirmation of pregnancy.

"This is a programme that's easily comparable to better known programmes in the US," hospital administrator Rob Manson said of the new fertilization technique.

"This technology is so new and state-of-the-art. It's high technology, high visibility medical science."

"The fact that this team can produce a birth only 12 months after starting the technique easily puts them on a par with others in the world," Spittle said.

"When I look at her and see how well she's growing, I believe in miracles," the mother said. "She's so precious to us."

Dying for lack of information?

Most studies on nutrition are usually based on young people. Are old people dying because so little is known about their nutritional needs?

By Simon Wolff

MUCH is known about the nutritional requirements of young, growing, fit people. But we know very little about what and how much elderly people need to eat. Accidentally, they may be starving to death.

The increase in the numbers of the elderly is new. The virtual eradication of life-threatening infectious disease, improved sanitation and housing, and less overt malnutrition has greatly increased life-expectancy.

But little research has been done on the special nutritional requirements of the old. Investigating causes of ageing and age-related disease are seen as low priority at a time of generalised cuts in research funding.

Knowledge

Our knowledge of the relationship between height, weight and health comes not from medical research but from life insurance statistics collected over decades.

This information is based on young adults. How many 70-year-olds seek life insurance? Little is known even about their desirable weight range. Some old people lose weight dramatically, yet remain healthy for years. Others seem simply to waste away. Similarly, recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) of vitamins and minerals are based on young people, not on the elderly's special needs.

Old people who stay in hospital for extended periods often lose a lot of weight. It was always believed this was a result of



Dietary habits can be grossly disturbed by a move into the hospital.

increased metabolic rate caused by disease.

But although it is true that young people experience weight loss and metabolic rate increase during acute illness, perhaps as part of the fight against infection, this does not occur in the chronically sick elderly. They lose weight for the simple reason that they do not eat as much as they did at home.

"Institutionalised starvation" may occur despite the good intentions of nursing staff. Dietary habits are grossly disturbed by a move into hospital.

Having to eat three standard cook-chill meals a day in hurried, uncomfortable circumstances can make elderly people lose their appetite. At home they may eat just one leisurely meal each day and lots of snacks when desired.

Another factor affecting food intake is the state of people's teeth. Poorly fitting dentures and missing or rotten teeth affect the desire and ability to consume enough food.

But the problem is greater than institutional care or bad teeth. As

we grow old, we become more susceptible to infection and our tissues become damaged, resulting in arthritis, kidney failure and heart disease.

This decline in function is not simply due to wear and tear. As we age, the rate of tissue damage probably increases alongside a decreased ability to repair such damage.

Recognition of the importance of vitamin D in bone growth helped eradicate childhood rickets, but how much vitamin D is required by older people to keep their bones strong? And how well do they utilise their intake of calcium?

The availability of fresh fruit and vegetable made scurvy, severe deficiency of vitamin C, rare. But little is known about the consequences of vitamin C sub-nutrition — less than optimal levels of intake. Vitamin C also acts as an antioxidant, protecting tissues against the damage caused by free-radicals, reactive molecules causing unwanted oxidation.

One theory of ageing and age-

related disease is that free radical production increases over the passage of time. It may be that the elderly do not get enough vitamin C, and possibly vitamin E and selenium, for this vital protective function.

Levels of vitamin B2 may also differ between healthy old people and those with clinical disease, although it is difficult to assess how much of this vitamin is needed to maintain adequate tissue function. Recognising complete tissue breakdown is easier than measuring a decline which has not yet reached danger levels.

Widespread concern has been expressed about the lack of information on age-related disease and the importance of trace elements and vitamins in the diet. A recent workshop, organised by the charity Research into Ageing, highlighted these failings and the lack of basic information on desirable weight ranges, RDAs, and the worrying phenomenon of institutionalised starvation. The chance to reduce much of the pain and disability of old age remains slim until these questions are answered.

New hope on liver transplants

CHICAGO, (Reuter): A new solution which allows human livers to be kept longer before they are transplanted has revolutionised the transplants, researchers said in a report released recently.

The storage solution, developed at the University of Wisconsin, allows liver to be kept for up to 24 hours — compared to just a few hours with the old solution — giving surgeons more time to operate. Livers kept in the new solution also seem to have fewer post-transplant problems, the report said.

"The remarkable effectiveness of the (new) solution has revolutionised liver transplantation at almost every level," said the researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the Veterans Administration Medical Centre in Pittsburgh.

"The enhanced margin of safety has permitted more effective use of organs that can be stored safely while waiting for operating room facilities or personnel to become available," said the report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"It has allowed procurement of grafts from cities once considered too distant, from as far as across the Atlantic ocean," the study said.

Blood pressure: a silent killer

By Ann Robinson

HIGH blood pressure (BP) is known as the silent killer.

It contributes to heart disease — the commonest cause of death in affluent nations — plus strokes, kidney damage, eye problems, and hardening of the arteries.

People with very high BP are about four times more likely to suffer a heart attack than people with low BP.

It is believed to affect about 15 per cent of people over the age of 30, but only half are known to their general practitioner.

There is no such thing as normal BP, only a range within which people fall, depending mainly on age and sex. It is described by an upper (systolic) and lower (diastolic) figure recording the pressure of blood in blood vessels.

Fit

BP can be as low as 60/30 during sleep and shoots up to 150/90 during sexual intercourse. It varies throughout the day and many normal, mildly stressful activities such as driving can cause it to rise. When pressure is high for a long time it indicates that the blood vessels are damaged.

Most people feel fit and well when they learn they have high BP (hypertension). Contrary to belief, headache, dizziness, or palpitations are rarely signs of the condition.

BP over 160/95 must be

treated, although there is dispute over the importance of treating borderline cases (over 140/90) and elderly people.

No one should be told that their BP is raised on a single measurement. Ideally, at least three measurements should be taken over a few weeks. Simply visiting the doctor is enough to cause a transient rise in BP.

General practitioners have been urged to measure BP at least once every five years, as it rises from birth to adulthood and in men continues to rise with age. It is lower in women until the menopause, when it starts to rise.

Apart from age, sex, and a family history of hypertension, environmental and lifestyle factors are important. Obesity, dietary factors, and heavy drinking have all been shown to contribute to its development. The first step in reducing BP is changes in lifestyle. Moderating salt intake can help and also ensure that BP does not rise so fast with age.

Control

Vegetarians have lower BP than meat-eaters, which may be due to the beneficial effects of high levels of potassium in fruit and vegetables. High BP is also more common in soft water areas. The magnesium in hard water may be protective.

Simply losing weight may be enough to reduce hypertension without resort to medication. For each stone increase in weight, systolic pressure

increases by 4 mm of mercury. Continuing to smoke increases the risk of a heart attack or stroke. And people who drink more than 10 pints of beer or 20 glasses of wine a week should cut down.

Stress control and relaxation techniques, such as yoga, meditation, and biofeedback, can be remarkably effective in lowering raised BP. Hypertensives should also consider stopping or changing any drugs which cause BP to rise, such as some contraceptive pills.

While lifestyle modification may do the trick, medication is often necessary. Today's range of drugs, aiming to reduce diastolic pressure to below 90 mm in most cases, can all have unpleasant side-effects, including headaches, sleepiness, flushing, and impotence in men. They include beta-blockers, diuretics, calcium antagonists, and ACE inhibitors.

The most important advice for anyone with mild to moderately high BP is to learn to relax, to lose excess weight, to drink less, and to stop smoking.

The diet should also be improved by reducing consumption of saturated fat, salt and sugar, and increasing consumption of fruit, vegetables, and unrefined carbohydrates. Regular exercise strengthens the cardiovascular system and aids weight loss. Home-monitoring devices are a new development in control but their reliability is reported to be variable.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Two years of talks create international media, entertainment empire

Time and Warner spurn foreign suitors to form world giant

NEW YORK, March 5. (Agencies): Two American firms launched in the roaring Twenties, published Time Inc. and film and music giant Warner Communications Inc., have spurned foreign suitors and agreed to merge into the world's largest media enterprise.

The deal, announced yesterday, will make Time Warner Inc. a huge entertainment and media conglomerate set to challenge competitors worldwide with a market value of \$18 billion and annual revenue of \$10 billion.

"Only strong American companies will survive after the formation of a unified European market in 1992," Warner chairman Steven Ross said in an interview with the New York Times published today.

Accord
Under the merger accord, Time will acquire Warner through an exchange of stock, forming a media empire that will

be a world leader in recorded music and music publishing, magazine and book publishing, filmmaking and cable television.

The agreement, which includes \$3 billion of long-term debt, would be the second-largest corporate merger in US history after Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co.'s \$25-billion acquisition late last year of RJR Nabisco Inc.

Target
Time and Warner, both New York-based companies, were founded in 1923 by American entrepreneurs. Each has seen off rumours of takeovers, including some from abroad, while acquiring prize new properties and seeking continued independence.

In 1983 Warner was a takeover target of Australian-born Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd and instead reached a deal with Chris-Craft Industries,

which bought a major stake in Warner, now amounting to 11 percent, to foil the Murdoch bid.

"Warner is the last American-owned record company," Ross said. "This was an industry that America created, but all of the companies other than Warner that were started by Americans are now owned by British, Japanese, German and Dutch companies."

The merger follows increasing foreign media purchases of US publishers and communications firms, deals which grew from \$6.5 billion in 1987 to nearly \$10 billion last year.

"The last \$4 or five billion worth of magazine deals in the United States have been foreign companies buying into the American market," Time president Nick Nicholas told the New York Times.

The biggest spender last year was News Corp. Ltd, which

agreed to buy Triangle Publications, publisher of America's high-circulation TV Guide, for \$3 billion.

British publisher Robert Maxwell's Maxwell Communications Corp. paid \$2.6 billion to buy MacMillan Inc., one of the last big independent publishers, and French publisher Hachette SA spent over \$1 billion on US properties.

Time is the largest US magazine publisher, with combined circulation of 30 million and 120 million readers worldwide.

Warner is the parent of Warner Bros movie studio. It has been among the top three studios for the last 15 years and has earned the industry's largest revenues and profits since 1969.

Warner is the largest US record firm and second-largest in the world after the CBS-Sony Group. Last year it bought Lorimar Telepictures Corp.,

Hollywood's leading television producer, for \$650 million.

Time vice-chairman Gerald Levin said after the agreement was announced yesterday that the two companies — both of which were considered prime takeover targets — had negotiated for two years before producing the merger deal.

The new company will have co-chief executive officers and a board of directors made up of equal numbers named by each company.

Business
By merging in what is legally a tax-free pooling of interests, the companies avoid the financial drain that usually accompanies huge acquisitions. Glenn Britt, Time's chief financial officer, called it "an old-fashioned merger."

"I think we can contrast this to a lot of other transactions we see going on in America, where companies end up being over-

leveraged and so constrained they can't do anything," Britt said.

"This is a very important business for this country, and we think it's significant that we're forming what will be the largest global media company, and that it's American-owned and US-based," Britt said.

Time executives have been predicting recently that there will eventually be about half a dozen global powers in the media and entertainment business and have vowed to make their company one of them.

The companies have extensive cable television interests which together will rank second in the United States.

"Together we will be a worldwide leader in all our businesses, enabling us to create and innovate in ways each could only dream about before," Ross and Time chairman Richard Munro said in a statement.

Interest rates will remain high unless deficit cut, says Greenspan

WASHINGTON, March 5. (AP): Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said last week that US interest rates will remain high unless Congress and the Bush administration do a credible job of cutting the budget deficit.

"The budget deficit must be brought down. While it is difficult to contemplate the healthy growth of recent years in the context of large budget deficits, it is fanciful to conclude that these deficits have no adverse consequences," the head of the American central bank told the Senate Budget Committee.

"Allowing deficits to persist courts instability in the near term and threatens potentially significant reductions over time in the United States standard of living," he said in his first congressional appearance since the Fed boosted its key bank lending rate last Friday.

Higher
The economy, according to the Fed's reading, is in danger of overheating. Retail price inflation, at an already too-high 4.4 percent in 1987 and 1988, could ratchet higher because of tight labour markets and strained factory capacity, Fed officials believe.

On Friday, the Fed sent a dramatic signal of its intent to keep inflation under control by increasing its discount rate, the interest charged member banks for short-term loans, from 6.5 percent to 7 percent, the highest level in three years.

Sen. James Sasser, chairman of the Budget Panel, called the increase "an unmistakable message to the President and the Congress that we better put our fiscal affairs in order." However, he added, "I am afraid that the message is simply not being heard."

Hopes
The Fed's anti-inflation campaign has put it at odds with President George Bush's administration, which hopes to keep the deficit under control without raising taxes.

Higher interest rates, by adding to the cost of carrying the \$2.7 trillion national debt and by eventually slowing the economy, make that more difficult. Both Bush's budget and his plan to rescue the savings and loan industry depend on sharply falling interest rates. And on Saturday the President acknowledged: "I can't say I'm happy about the rise in interest rates."

North Sea oil output down

ABU DHABI, March 5. (OPECNA): British oil output in January fell by 250,000 BPD over December to 1.90 million BPD, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The bank's oil index report, published here last week, said the January figure represented a 26.2 percent decline on January 1988.

Production
The sharp fall in production, which the bank said was higher than expected, resulted from major and unscheduled curtailment of supplies because of production shutdowns in four of the offshore fields. Another reason was the fall in the value of the pound sterling against the dollar.

The Royal Bank, however, pointed out that the total value of British oil production had increased during January — thanks to OPEC's November agreement which had pushed up North Sea Brent crude prices from \$14.30 to 16.87 a barrel.

China and India may seek more loans: IMF

WASHINGTON, March 5. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) anticipates "additional major demands from both China and India" for loans in the nineties, Washington Post financial columnist Hobart Rowen last week quoted IMF officials as saying, reports The Economic Times.

No reasons were given for this assessment.
However, World Bank vice-president Attila Karaosmanoglu told Indian correspondents recently that as India grew in sophistication, there was bound to be pressure on the balance of payments.

Demand
Asked whether with the depletion of Indian foreign exchange reserves, India would be able to maintain its policy of liberalisation without additional infusion of funds from abroad, Karaos-

manoglu said: "I think it is really wrong to assign it to the liberalisation efforts."

"You should recognise that the economy, when it grew by nine per cent last year and is growing at a healthy six to seven per cent this year... is bound to create a significant import demand, whether there is a more liberalising regime or a less liberalising regime," he said.

Success
"To attribute a relationship between imports and liberation of the trade regime and balance of payments constraint is wrong... the important question is whether India will be able to increase its exports much more rapidly (to find the foreign exchange needed for additional imports)."

"It is important to recognise that great success in export

growth has to be combined with the availability of inputs for things that are exported at prices and qualities comparable to world market prices and qualities."

"... That requires relaxation of the rules on entry of new investments and the licensing system plus a relaxation of imports of things which will improve competitiveness, prices and availability of inputs for exportable surplus," he said.

The World Bank vice-president said "India is unique because it has such a large market that even with domestic competition you can gain a bit of ground in increasing efficiency."

"In such a large domestic market opening up, you can create a major base for increasing pressures for competitiveness domestically."

"Secondly, it will increasingly

bring into the normal economy what remains on the fringes... as black money becomes less profitable people will turn to operating in the legitimate economic framework. So there is quite a bit of benefit to be gained by reducing domestic licensing and decontrolling the economy," Karaosmanoglu said.

The forthcoming meeting of the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund is likely to witness a battle of wits between the US on one side and the IMF and all other nations on the other over the IMF's request for a 50 per cent increase in its quota for capital over the next five years.

The US insists that the IMF does not need the money, that it has \$40 billion equivalent in quotas and another \$20 to 25 billion in borrowing arrangements.

China wants to help Iran's reconstruction

NICOSIA, March 5. (Reuters): Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, visiting Tehran in the footsteps of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, has said that Beijing wants to help Iran's post-war reconstruction.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati last night as telling Tian that Iran attached special importance to its relations with China.

China had close ties with both Iran and Iraq during the eight-year-long Gulf war. Chinese-made Silkworm missiles acquired by Iran were a major threat to Gulf shipping late in the war. A ceasefire has been in force since last August.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, reported Tian as telling his Iranian counterpart Hamid Mousavi-Zadeh that Beijing wanted to help Iran rebuild war-damaged oil refineries, offshore oil platforms and power plants.

GCC to set up \$500m joint venture with Iraq

ABU DHABI, March 5. (Reuters): The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is planning a \$500 million joint venture with Iraq on industrial and trade projects, the official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM said today.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Mulla, secretary general of the GCC Chambers of Commerce Federation, told WAM the venture would take advantage of Iraq's easing of restrictions on foreign investment and encouragement of privatisation to revive its war-damaged economy.

Officials from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman would discuss details of the project with Iraqi officials in Baghdad on March 17, he said.

Tunisia to speed up privatisation plan

TUNIS, March 5. (Reuters): The Tunisian government will speed up its privatisation plan this year to make up for time lost last year because of drought, Central Bank Governor Ismail Khelil said yesterday.

Khelil told Reuters in an interview the government went slow on privatisation during 1988 because the drought produced unemployment and it did not want to exacerbate the problem by selling off state companies with labour surpluses.

"We will accelerate the process this year. The public sector now accounts for 60 per cent of the economy and we still plan to bring that down to 40 per cent by the end of 1991," he said.

Targets
The next targets for privatisation are three hotels in the Tanit chain, some textile and building material factories and some small subsidiaries of the state-owned Societe Tunisienne De Banque, he added.

Khelil said that provided good rains continued into March, the grain harvest would be normal and overall economic growth could meet the budgeted target of 5.5 per cent.

The disastrous harvest of 1988, when grain output was about one sixth of the average, cut economic growth to 1.5 per cent, revised from an original estimate of 0.9 per cent.

The governor said he expected tourism revenues to show a slight progression in 1989 after the boom year of 1988, when tourism

receipts in foreign exchange jumped almost 90 per cent to reach 1,080 million dinars (\$1,150 million).

The boom helped produce the first balance of payments surplus in Tunisia's modern history — about 20 million dinars (\$21 million) — and brought foreign exchange reserves up to 733 million dinars (\$785 million), equivalent to 85 days' imports, by the end of the year, he added.

As a result Tunisia had still not used any of the extended financing to it from the International Monetary Fund.

The country might resort to the facility during 1989, however, to cover a balance of payments expected to slip back into deficit, he added. Budget documents forecast that grants and long-term loans will more than cover a current account deficit of 285 million dinars (\$305 million) in 1989.

Progress
"On reserves, we've made great progress... I think if we continue to improve our reserves then we can start to make the dinar convertible during the next five-year plan (which starts in 1992), gradually of course," he said.

The aim of convertibility would be to encourage the foreign investment which Tunisia needed to speed up economic growth and prevent an increase in unemployment. Unemployment already stands at about 15 per cent overall and is higher among youngsters.

World Business Summary

Perez continues to support economic austerity plan

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 5. (AP): President Carlos Andres Perez has promised to continue to support a government economic austerity programme that touched off four days of riots and looting. In a letter sent yesterday to International Monetary Fund president Michel Camdessus, Perez said his country was committed to the economic reforms. The austerity measures are required under an agreement with the IMF in exchange for a \$4.3-billion loan over the next three years. The bloodiest protests in Venezuela's history crammed hospitals with victims. The disturbances were touched off on Monday by bus fare increases, and then evolved into nationwide demonstrations that killed at least 300 people. Perez said the violence injured 2,000 people. News reports have said several thousand people were detained. In his letter to Camdessus, Perez said the IMF-backed reforms "gravely affect the impoverished sectors of the country that explode in desperate violence like we saw unleashed in Caracas," and warned that the crisis was getting "bigger and deeper." The reforms include mification of an exchange system to stem a fall in central bank reserves and elimination of price controls. A businessman said on Saturday that the government price-control reforms were unclear. "Businesses don't know what to do and so they're paralysing production," said the businessman, who asked not to be identified. Authorities loosened a curfew in the capital on Saturday and reduced the number of National Guard units on the streets. Tow trucks cleared burned buses from the intersections. Long lines of people stood outside distribution centres and the few food stores open for business. News reports said some coffee was arriving with two bodies inside because there weren't enough caskets to go around. The director of the largest hospital in the city said morgue officials called on medical officials to help them with the bodies. The hospital director, Dr Carmen Chirinos, said 1,881 injured people crowded her 700-bed hospital Perez Carrasco. She said most of the injured were young men with bullet wounds. "We've been doing very well under the circumstances," she said. Insurance companies estimated damage to their clients was about \$76 million, but many looted businesses had no coverage, according to news reports. The military had airlifted 50 tons of food into Caracas in the last three days, news reports said.

Financier indicted in French insider trading row

PARIS, March 5. (Reuters): Max Theret, a financier close to the Socialist Party, was charged with insider trading in connection with a French state-owned firm's \$1.25-billion takeover of a US company, judicial sources said. Investigating magistrate Edith Boizette travelled from Paris to the country home of Theret, who is convalescing from heart trouble, to press the charges, the sources said. Theret, 76, was hospitalised shortly before the stock exchange watchdog Cob released a report last month on the takeover of US-based packaging firm Triangle Industries Inc by the Pechiney Aluminium Group last November. Five people have already been charged in connection with the scandal, including a friend of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, Roger-Patrice Pelat, indicted for benefiting from insider trading. Pelat, a wartime resistance friend of the president, was rushed to hospital a few days ago also suffering from heart trouble. Boizette on Thursday questioned several high-ranking government and presidential aides in connection with the case but had been unable to hear Theret due to his illness. Judicial sources said. The Cob report said it had tape-recorded phone calls from Theret's CPP brokerage firm to a London merchant bank indicating the firm was buying shares in Triangle just ahead of the takeover, and with hardly any knowledge of the company. "It appears that one of the directors of the CPP benefitted from privileged information," it said. Theret has denied he had inside knowledge of the takeover, saying he got wind of the move from a market tip-sheet and that his purchases were a coincidence. Under French law, toughened up a year ago to smooth the way for what Paris hopes will be a big expansion of its securities market, insider-trading offenders face up to two years in prison or fines of up to five million francs (\$800,000) on conviction.

Iran bans imports of cigarettes and tobacco

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 5. (AP): Iran has banned imports of cigarettes and tobacco due to the high cost of imports and scarce foreign exchange, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the details of the ban, such as when it took effect, were not available, but reported that the ban was announced by the State Tobacco Company during a one-day session in the tobacco-growing town of Tifanak, in northwestern Mazandaran province. It said that Iran imported 15,400 tons of tobacco and cigarettes during 1985-86 at a cost of \$124.4 million, mainly from Bulgaria and Switzerland. But during a five-year period, starting in 1982, tobacco production in Iran grew from 21,000 tons per year, to 24,000 tons, the agency said. Iranians can purchase cigarettes with government-issued coupons for 300 rials (\$4.5) per pack, the agency reported. But in the flourishing black market the better brands of locally made cigarettes cost as much as the equivalent of \$15 a pack. Smuggled, American-made Winston cigarettes, fetch the premium price of 1,200 rials (\$16) per pack. Soaring prices have forced many smokers to buy single cigarettes, which are sold at roadside by enterprising, unemployed men who buy cigarette coupons from non-smokers and then sell single cigarettes to make a greater profit. Last year, the joke among Iranian smokers was that if cigarette prices rose any higher, they would find roadside kiosks selling single puffs of cigarettes.

Algerian oil firm to launch independent subsidiaries

ALGIERS, March 5. (OPECNA): Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company, has decided to launch independent subsidiaries, with an announcement expected "within weeks," according to Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Sadek Boussena. The minister, who was speaking in an interview with the "El Moudjahid" newspaper, said it was "regrettable" that despite a budget of \$226 million for prospecting and research activities, the performance had not been satisfactory. He said while a large number of exploration contracts with foreign companies were already in existence, negotiations for signing additional ones were in progress. New permits would be granted for central Sahara and the Bechar area on the border of Morocco. He said co-operation with African and Maghreb countries would continue, but ruled out the possibility of Algerian companies taking up external assignments for the present. Boussena said 20 per cent of the country's active population was unemployed, a situation which had made the development of the energy sector all the more crucial.

WANTED Female Secretary

Experienced in office work, self-correspondence, shorthand, to join work immediately, should have own transport, transferable residence. Preference will be given to unmarried applicants. Working hrs 8.30 am to 1.30 pm & 4.30 to 8 pm. Office located near Fisheries Bldg. (Shura). Those interested write contact phone no: P.O. Box 1889 (Solar), Code 13019, with recent photograph.

سكاي ١٠٠

Stocks and bonds rally

US interest rate fears ease

NEW YORK, March 5 (UPI)—Stock prices gained on the week as strength in the bond market helped to ease investors' recent concerns about the outlook for inflation and interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 8.58 on Friday to end at 2,274.29, gained a total of 28.75 points on the week, or 1.3 per cent.

Broader market indicators also advanced. The New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.18 to 163.90, while Standard and Poor's 500-stock index climbed 28.75 to close the week at 2,274.29.

Advances led declines 1,094-733 among the 2,137 issues traded. Big Board volume totalled 778,544,950 shares, compared with 616,181,810 last week and 1,040,324,130 a year ago.

Analysts said renewed concerns about the outlook for inflation and interest rates led investors to look to the bond market to set the stage for buying in the wake of last week's 79.28-point plunge.

As a result, the biggest day of the week was on Thursday, when news that West Germany's Deutsche Bundesbank failed to raise its key lending rates led to sharp gains in bond prices, which in turn fuelled a rally in stocks.

Thursday's rally pushed the Dow up 22.67 points, and modest gains won every other day except Wednesday allowed the market to post a gain on the week.

Alfred Goldman, a market analyst with A. G. Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis, said the recent hike in the Federal Reserve's discount rate and news

of sharp gains in January consumer and producer prices continued to put a lid on buying since they suggest the need for high interest rates to slow the economy down.

Investors "There are some investors who believe interest rates won't move much higher, but unless we see an economic slowdown soon, the market will not see any significant upward growth," he said.

Broader market indicators this week did little to change Goldman's forecast.

The government's index of leading economic indicators jumped 0.6 per cent in January, and personal income in January rose 1.8 per cent.

"The gains in the market from mid-November through early February were won amid a dis-

regard for rising interest rates," Goldman said. "But stocks are simply getting overvalued compared with fixed-income investments."

Jon Groveman, head of equity trading at Ladenburg, Thalmann and Co. Inc., said investors this week were on edge since many were unsure of their next move.

"A lot of people have been jockeying around for positions as they wait for the interest-rate situation to be resolved," he said.

The February employment report, due out on March 10, will shed more light on that front, he said.

On the trading floor this week, Texas Utilities was the most active NYSE issue, ending unchanged at 28-1/2. The stock traded ex-dividend on Tuesday.

US Shoe followed, plunging 6-1/4 to 19-1/2 after the financially

troubled company agreed to sell its footwear unit to a group headed by Merrill Lynch Capital partners. Analysts said investors were disappointed that buyers for the company's other units did not emerge to maximise shareholder value.

Climbed Storage Technology was third, gaining 1/8 to 2.

Among the active blue chips, Union Carbide rose 1-3/8 to 31-7/8, AT and T added 3/4 to 30-1/2 and American Express climbed 7/8 to 30-1/8. Elsewhere in the sector, IBM fell 1/4 to 120-7/8 and General Electric eased 1/2 to 44-3/4.

Oil stocks rallied following a rise in oil prices. The Soviet Union and other non-members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to cut back their crude oil exports.

Corporate profits soar

Australia battles inflation as economy heats up

SYDNEY, March 5: Want to buy a new car? Don't go to Dominelli's Ford dealership, unless you're prepared to wait as long as four months for one of the bigger models made in Australia.

"If you ordered a Fairlane from today, I couldn't supply you till May or June," says Eddie Dominelli. He could deliver a locally made Falcon in April or May. Such waits are driving some of his customers to buy imported cars, though "not all, thank God." He's looking for a 10 per cent increase in 1989 sales from last year, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Projections

Dominelli's order books are a clue to what has gone right in Australia's economy in the past eight months — and what has gone wrong. The economy is booming on the back of strong commodities prices, corporate profits are up and unemployment is down. But inflation is outpacing official projections, interest rates have climbed and imports are soaring, partly because domestic manufacturers can't meet demand.

Consequently, the deficit in the current account during the first seven months of the current fiscal year already has exceeded official projections for the full year, which ends June 30. The current account, the widest measure of a nation's trade, comprises trade in goods and services and certain transfers of funds. That financing gap, in turn, is swelling the country's hefty foreign-debt burden.

The paper said: "Financial markets still are reeling from the news last month of January's yawning current-account deficit of \$1.5 billion Australian (US\$1.2 billion). A great big party has been going on Down Under, and the bills are racking up," says Andrew Mohl, chief economist of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. "It has all the earmarks of an economy that has got away from its controllers and will suffer a nasty correction," he adds.

Just how nasty, and when any downturn in economic growth will come — so interest rates can fall — is the subject of heated debate among economists and businessmen, some of whom are

betting that the ruling Labour Party will call an early election before the economic news gets worse.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who won an unprecedented third term in July 1987, must go to the polls by mid-1990. But when questioned last weekend on the election timetable, Hawke didn't rule out calling one as early as September.

Momentum Mohl and others say there is enough momentum in the economy to propel it for six to nine months. Then the economy probably will slow. The question is whether growth slows gradually — a so-called soft landing — or stops short.

"Whether it turns into a recession depends to some extent on the wages situation," says Warren Bird, an economist at Merrill Lynch & Co. in Sydney.

The government is negotiating with labour unions on a promised package of tax cuts in exchange for moderate wage increases for the year beginning July 1, and economists worry that if the package is too big, it will fuel domestic demand, spur

inflation and worsen Australia's deteriorating balance of payments. That could force the government to further raise interest rates to put the brakes on an overheated economy, which could plunge the country into recession in late 1989 or early 1990.

Wages

Keeping a lid on wages growth will test the Hawke government's mettle, especially in the lead-up to an election, several economists say. Average wages, adjusted for inflation, have declined for five of the past six years and probably will slip again in the current fiscal year. But worker expectations have been encouraged by government promises of an end to the pain.

Treasurer Paul Keating says, "in a time of economic upturn, it is unreasonable to demand" too much belt-tightening from the unions. But he says the government will avoid "the debilitating wage explosions of past upturns" that trigger recessions.

With interest rates rising, inflation climbing and the current-account deficit widening, Keating — who in 1984 was

named finance minister of the year by Euromoney magazine and aspires to be prime minister — is under fire.

Inflation accelerated to 7.7 per cent in the quarter ended Dec 31 from a year earlier, compared with a year-to-year inflation rate of 7.3 per cent in the quarter ended Sept. 30. Keating had forecast in August that inflation would fall to 4.5 per cent by the quarter ending June 30, 1989.

Meanwhile, exports are rising at a slower rate than imports, and the cumulative deficit on the current account for the first seven months of this fiscal year widened 36 per cent to A\$9.64 billion from A\$7.11 billion a year earlier. That exceeds Keating's budget projection last August of A\$9.5 billion for the full year.

Part of Keating's strategy is to slow domestic demand with high interest rates rather than through other measures such as further cuts in government spending. It's a tactic the government has been trying since April, when it began tightening monetary policy.

Short-term interest rates have jumped to 16.8 per cent from 11 per cent last March.

Hong Kong surplus expected to outstrip forecast at \$1 billion

HONG KONG, March 5: Piers Jacobs, Hong Kong's financial secretary, said he expects a HK\$14.2 billion (£1.04 billion) fiscal surplus for 1988-89 — almost twice the HK\$5.5 billion he forecast last year, according to The Times.

He expects a HK\$11.5 billion surplus in 1989-90. Reserves are set to reach HK\$71 billion by the end of financial year 1989-90, but Jacobs resisted the temptation to cut taxes drastically or boost capital spending in his budget. "We should not spend more simply because we have collected more," he said in his 1989/90 budget speech yesterday.

He cut the standard rate of personal income tax from 15.5 per cent to 15 per cent and reduced corporate profit taxes from 17 per cent to 16.5 per cent — a loss to the government of about HK\$1.1 billion.

Jacobs blamed inflation for not being more generous, although he did raise the tax threshold to take 60,000 taxpayers out of the tax net.

He said he was keeping a tight grip on the money supply in a bid to fight inflation, which he said was 7.5 per cent in 1988. "For Hong Kong, this is high," he said, adding he expected it to be 8.5 per cent this year. He admitted his power to fight inflation was limited. "There are few viable policy options open to a small, externally-oriented economy like ours."

He said his best weapons were high interest rates and not spending too much of the budget surplus. He did, however, keep tax rises on petrol, alcohol and tobacco in line with inflation, introduced a HK\$20 million allowance for single parents or widows with children and promised separate tax for married women next year.

Shell and Esso scheme may create 3,000 jobs

Plan to revive £700m North Sea project

LONDON, March 5: A big North Sea oil project, shelved in 1986 when the world oil price plummeted, is to be revived with a £700 million investment and up to 3,000 new jobs in the offshore construction industry, a London newspaper said yesterday.

The Shell and Esso partnership has decided to develop the Gannet complex of four small oil fields in the central North Sea, 112 miles east of Aberdeen.

Decision It plans to seek government approval for the project, and if it goes ahead work should start in 1992.

A final decision on the project will be made by the main boards of Shell and Esso this year, but tenders for contracts worth more than £200 million are to be invited over the next few weeks by Shell UK Exploration, the operator of the project. The first orders will be placed for bulk

steel for pipeline work, power generation plants, heavy cranes and pumps.

Tenders for the detailed design of the platform jacket and accommodation will be issued shortly and contracts for their construction placed this autumn.

Project

The fields in the Gannet complex hold 170 million recoverable barrels of oil and 700 billion cubic feet of gas. Shell and Esso first planned to develop the complex with the nearby Kittiwake field in 1984 but in 1986 the project became uneconomic and a year later Shell and Esso decided to develop Kittiwake on its own.

The engineering team on Kittiwake cut the original development costs by 40 per cent and lessons learned over the past two years have led the engineers to believe that Gannet can be brought on stream economically.

omically.

Peter Everett, managing director of Shell UK Exploration, said: "The proposal to revive Gannet has been possible because of the imaginative use of the wide range of cost-saving techniques which we have developed."

"We have built on the success of the Tern, Eider and Kittiwake oil fields and Osprey sub-sea development, and incorporated in Gannet the lessons we have learned from them. Gannet will be a major contribution to the national aim of ensuring self-sufficiency well into the 21st century."

Platform

The project will involve building a central processing platform linked to three sub-sea oil field production units. Oil will be brought through the central processing platform and then pumped into the Fulmar floating

storage unit. The gas from the field will go ashore through a pipeline from the nearby Fulmar platform to St. Fergus, north of Aberdeen.

Three of the fields in the complex are within a three-mile radius of the planned central platform in an average water depth of 300ft and the fourth field is nine miles to the north-east.

The production platform will be separated from the living quarters. Following the Piper Alpha disaster the oil companies in the North Sea have been looking at ways of keeping accommodation as far as possible from production systems.

On the Gannet central platform the accommodation will be housed in a floating semi-submersible linked to the platform by a catwalk.

It will provide the power and other services for the drilling crew.

US carrier tells machinists to take a substantial pay cut

Strike cripples Eastern Airlines

MIAMI, March 5 (Reuters): A strike by Eastern Airlines mechanics and baggage handlers and a sympathy walkout by its pilots union has crippled the seventh-largest US air carrier, stranding many passengers and creating confusion at airports from New York to Puerto Rico.

Eastern was forced to cancel all but four per cent of its flights yesterday after the International Association of Machinists (IAM) sent its 8,500 members out on strike just after midnight following the collapse of talks in Washington.

The airline's contingency plans for flying through a strike were shattered when nearly all of its 3,400 pilots refused to cross picket lines yesterday.

Bankruptcy

Financial analysts said a protracted strike could lead to a bankruptcy filing or a complete dismantling of the loss-ridden airline, which was founded 60 years ago and was once headed by World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker.

"Eastern can't survive if the pilots don't come in, and it doesn't look like they're going to," said Jordan Green of Avmark Services, an airline consulting firm.

Pilots union leaders vowed to keep their members off the job until Frank Lorenzo, chairman

of Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp., grants the machinists a fair settlement in their 17-month-old contract dispute. Eastern is asking the machinists to take a substantial pay cut.

Walkout

The walkout is the first at Eastern since the machinists last struck in 1966.

Eastern, the seventh largest US carrier, had originally planned to operate 25 to 30 per cent of its normal schedule. But it managed to get only 40 of its 1,000 daily flights off the ground yesterday using supervisory pilots and mechanics.

That left thousands of irate passengers scrambling for seats on other carriers at airports all along the East Coast.

In Miami, Florida, hundreds of angry passengers besieged Eastern ticket counters. The airline, the largest serving Latin America, had promised to take special measures to maintain service to the region, but only a handful of flights headed south from Miami yesterday.

Stunned

Cruise-ship passengers returning from Caribbean voyages were stunned to learn they had no flights home. "This is mass chaos. They just don't know what they're doing," said David

Merritt, trying to get a flight home to North Carolina. Eastern's northeast shuttle, serving Washington, Boston and New York, flew less than 10 per cent of its normal flights.

Despite the disruption of Eastern's operations, a spokesman for the US Transportation Department said the union had not followed through on their threat to paralyse the US transportation system with boycotts of other airlines and railroad companies.

President Bush on Friday refused to intervene to block the strike but warned union leaders against extending their stoppage nationwide to other air and rail carriers.

But IAM General vice-president John Peterpaul told reporters yesterday that union leaders were still considering spreading picket lines to other transportation employees.

Eastern's Matell said a complete shutdown of the airline was among the options under consideration in dealing with the strike.

But he said Lorenzo, who acquired Eastern in 1986, was not planning to take Eastern into bankruptcy proceedings and was not trying to sell the airline.

He warned, however, that Eastern could begin laying off workers "depending upon the condition of the operation."

\$1 billion World Bank loans for Nigeria

LAGOS, March 5 (Reuters): Nigeria will receive World Bank loans worth about \$1 billion a year after agreeing to reschedule part of its \$30 billion foreign debt, a World Bank official said today.

Tariq Husain, the World Bank's Lagos representative, told Reuters the bank, which has lent Nigeria about \$4 billion over the past 30 years, now intended providing loans worth around \$1 billion a year.

He said \$600 million in loans would be paid to Nigeria for special projects, including help to develop small and medium-sized businesses.

Encouraging small businesses, especially in agriculture and manufacturing based on local raw materials, is part of the government's policy to break away from dependence on imports paid for by oil sales.

Restructuring

A tough economic restructuring programme has won approval from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and helped soften the attitude of Nigeria's foreign creditors.

But the programme has meant a devaluation of the local naira currency and hardship for most Nigerians struggling to cope with soaring inflation. It has also hit businesses short of foreign exchange for essential imports.

KUWAIT										AMMAN									
BANK SECTOR		P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE			OPNG		CLS							
-NATIONAL BANK		0.880	0.880	0.880	0.880	75000	8			ALA-ADDIN COMPANY		1.86	1.88						
-GULF BANK		0.350	0.350	0.355	0.350	60000	5			ARAB ALUMINUM IND.		2.10	2.09						
-COMMERCIAL BK		0.255	0.255	0.260	0.255	450000	14			ARAB BANK		153.5	153.5						
-AHLI BANK		0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	20000	1			ARAB CHEMICAL OTER		4.75	4.40						
-B.K.M.E.		0.360	0.345	0.345	0.335	40000	3			ARAB FINANCE CORP.		2.44	2.41						
-K.R.E.B.		0.370	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB INSURANCE		1.11	1.11						
-BURGAM BANK		0.255	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.		0.57	0.57						
-K.F. HOUSE		0.420	0.425	0.425	0.425	140000	9			ARAB INT.UNION INS		1.25	1.23						
INVESTMENT SECTOR										ARAB INTER.HOTELS		0.75	0.76						
-KUT INV. CO.		0.140	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB JOR/INVT/BK		2.35	2.33						
-K.F.T.C.I.C.		0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB PAPER COM/TRD		0.38	0.40						
-K.I.I.C.		0.104	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB PHARMA..MANF.		3.18	3.18						
COM.FACILITIES		0.480	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB PHARMA/CHEM		1.05	1.10						
-AHLIA INV.		0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARAB POTASH CO.		-----	-----						
-I.F.A.		0.056	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ARABIAN SEAS INS.		1.65	1.65						
-INV. PEARL KUT		0.082	0.080	0.080	0.080	53830	1			BANK OF JORDAN		15.35	15.30						
-NATIONAL INV.		0.068	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			BELGIUM INSURANCE		1.00	0.95						
-KUT PROJECTS		0.079	0.076	0.076	0.076	640000	-----			CAIRO AMMAN BANK		31.00	31.00						
INSURANCE SECTOR										CONFECT/CHOCOLATE		1.05	1.25						
-KUT INSURANCE		0.700	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			DAR AL SHAAS PRESS		0.59	0.60						
-GULF INSURANCE		0.360	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			DAR ALDAHA D/INV.		2.34	2.33						
-AHLIA INS. CO.		0.560	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			DARAB/INSTR/HOUS.		0.81	0.81						
-WARBA INS. CO.		0.365	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			FINANCE/CREDIT/COR		0.75	0.71						
REAL EST SECTOR										GARAGE OWNERS OFF		4.55	4.55						
-KUT R. EST. CO.		0.140	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			GENERAL INSURANCE		2.39	2.63						
-UNI R. EST. CO.		0.056	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			GENERAL INVESTMENT		1.30	1.35						
-WAT R. EST. CO.		0.192	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			GENERAL MINNING.		2.05	2.15						
-SALHIAH R.E.		0.080	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			HIMMER MINERALS		0.75	0.75						
-KUT R.E.I. CON		0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			HOLY LAND INS.		1.44	1.44						
INDUSTRY SECTOR										IND./MATCH JEMCO		0.73	0.74						
-MAT IND. CO.		0.520	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			INDSTR DLVPT BK		1.70	1.64						
-KUT M.P.		0.280	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			INDSTR/COM/AGR.		1.53	1.59						
-KUT CEMENT CO.		0.170	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			INDUSTRIAL INVEST.		0.75	0.75						
-REF. IND. CO.		0.355	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			INTERN.COM/INV		0.13	0.13						
-N.A.M.T. CO.		0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			IRBID ELECTRICITY		0.91	0.90						
-GULF CABLE		0.970	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ISLAMIC INV. IND.		0.64	0.64						
-K.P.H. IND. CO.		0.108	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			ITERNED/PREST/CH		1.64	1.67						
-CONT. MARINE		0.280	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			J.TOUR-SF COMPLEX		0.79	0.80						
-K.S.H. REP. CO.		0.045	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			JERUSALEM INS.		1.26	1.29						
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-P.WAREHOUSING		0.110	0.116	0.116	0.112	460000	9			JOR FINANCE HOUSE		1.20	1.22						
-COM.MKT.CMPX.		0.068	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			JOR GLASS INDUSTRY		1.05	1.06						
-MOBILE TELE.		0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	20000	2			JOR HOTEL TOURISM		2.30	2.30						
-KUT COMPUTER		0.154	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.		2.58	2.52						
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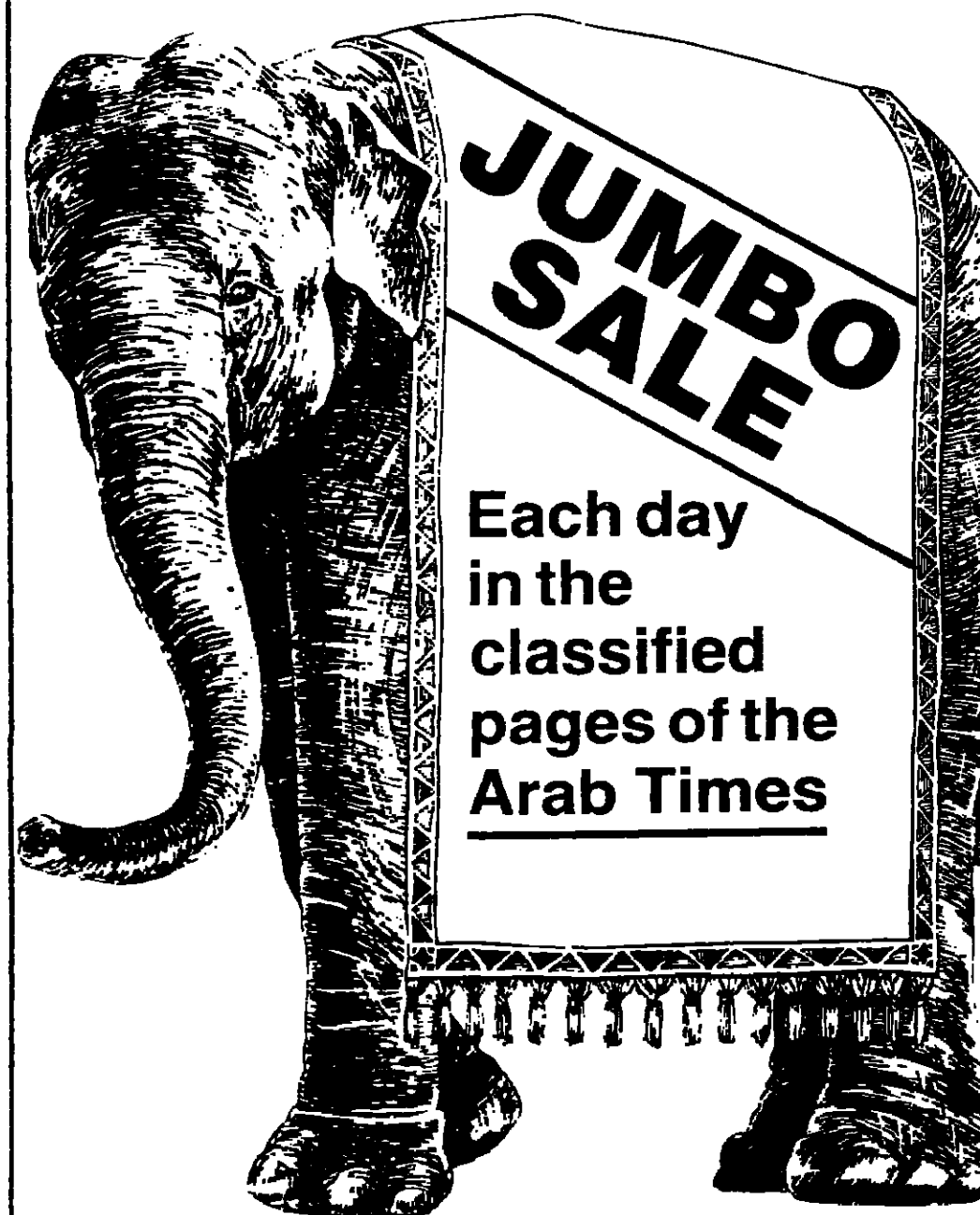
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مكرا من لاط

Johnson first in qualifying round of American Cup gymnastics

FAIRFAX, Virginia, March 5, (UPI) — Brandy Johnson, overshadowed by Phoebe Mills among US gymnasts in the Seoul Olympics, placed first in yesterday's qualifying round of the McDonald's American Cup, with defending champion Mills in close pursuit.

Facing a field of top female gymnasts from 12 nations, Johnson posted the highest score in the vault exercise and uneven bars and placed second in the beam to surge into today's medal round with an overall four-event score of 39.47.

Mills produced the highest score in the vault exercise, a four-event 39.324, good enough for second place. Both Johnson and Mills were competing for the first time since the Olympics.

The top eight finishers on the men's and women's side compete for the all-around titles today.

Pleased

"It was great," Johnson, 15, said of her performance. "I hit all my routines. I was really pleased. I couldn't have asked for anything better."

On the men's side, Vitali Marinich of the Soviet Union placed first with a six-event score of 57.0, with American Lance Ringwald and Spain's Alfonso Rodriguez knotted in second place.

The American women finished first, second and third during yesterday's round, but third place finisher Chelle Stack, who placed third in last year's American Cup, was eliminated from the medal round because only two gymnasts from one country were eligible to advance.

In the Olympics in South Korea, Mills, 16, earned a bronze medal on the beam to become the first American woman to capture a medal in a non-boycotted Olympics. Mary Lou Retton was a gold medalist in the 1984 Games that were boycotted by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc nations.

But Johnson was the highest American finisher in the all-around gymnastics competition during the Olympics.

Johnson said she hopes a victory in the American Cup will help her in the international competition.

Big step

"I've dreamed about it for the past three weeks, so (winning) it would mean the world to me. It would be a big step toward the world championships," Johnson said.

Mills, who has grown an inch and gained five pounds since September, introduced her new floor exercise, finishing in a second place tie with Stack.

"I felt I did well," Mills said. "It was the first competition in a long time. Tomorrow I think I can do a lot better on some of the beams, some wobbles on the beam that I can fix. I'll have more confidence after being out there this time."

Johnson, who finished eighth in the all-around competition at last year's American Cup, was awarded a 9.9 for a bubbly floor exercise and earned a 9.862 on the bars and 9.850 on the beam. Her lowest score was delivered on the vault, where she tied for third with Olesya Dudnik of the Soviet Union with a 9.862.

Also advancing to today's final round among the women were: Dudnik, Henriette Onodi of Hungary, Mari Kosuge of Japan, Karine Mermet of France, Stella Umeda of Canada and Dilianna Vodenitcharova of Bulgaria.

The other five competitors advancing to today's medal round on the men's side were: Jury Chechi of Italy, Patrick Kirsey of the United States, Andre Hempel of East Germany, Li Jing of China and Makoto Aihara of Japan.

Austrian wins

WINTER PARK, Colorado, March 5, (AP) — Austrian rookie Bernhard Knauss won his third consecutive US Pro Tour victory yesterday when he skied to first place in the Giant Slalom here.

Sweden's Jorgen Sundqvist finished second, while fellow countryman Gunnar Neurisser came in third. Ove Nygren of Norway took fourth place.

American Steve Mahre was eliminated after hooking his arm on a gate and skiing off the course in the second round of the quarterfinals.

"I think my hardest race today was Sundqvist in the finals," Knauss said after defeating the overall tour points leader. "You just keep quiet on your course and go full speed."

Sundqvist continued to hold tight to the Pro Tour's overall first place with 435 points. He was followed by American Phil Mahre with 380 points. Niklas Lindqvist was in third place with 370 points and Knauss moved into fourth place yesterday with 325 points.

GILBERT SUFFERS DEFEAT IN THE FINAL

McEnroe cruises to record fifth WCT title

DALLAS, March 5, (Reuters) — John McEnroe's comeback gained momentum yesterday as he cruised to a record fifth title at the \$685,000 World Championship Tennis finals with a 6-3 6-3 7-6 victory over fellow American Brad Gilbert.

"I wouldn't say this was sentimental but rather special because this was the first really big win of my career back in 1979," said the 30-year-old former world number one, now ranked sixth.

McEnroe received a major confidence boost in his efforts to regain the number one ranking on Friday when he beat old rival Ivan Lendl for the first time in more than three years.

Confident

"If you don't think you can do it, then you won't do it. I believe I am strong and confident," McEnroe said of returning to number one.

McEnroe faced break point in

the very first game of the final, but that turned out to be a rare setback as he ploughed through Gilbert in two hours 31 minutes.

McEnroe broke the 16th-ranked Gilbert in the sixth game to lead 4-2 and closed out the set with perfectly angled volleys.

"I felt I needed a good start and that was very important," said McEnroe, who managed just four hours sleep after beating Lendl in four sets late on Friday night.

"I think if I had lost the third set tiebreaker it would have been hard to overcome," he said.

Stunned

McEnroe crowded the net at every opportunity and stunned Gilbert by continually cutting off his passing shots. His reflexes at the net were superb throughout the match.

Gilbert was surprised by his opponent's speed and said it was like facing the McEnroe of old. "I hit a few lobs and they were

going long," said Gilbert of his attempts to drive McEnroe from the net. "He was reading my passing shots and hit winners off them because he was so close to the net."

McEnroe broke Gilbert's serve in the first and seventh games of the second set for a 5-2 lead and the two traded breaks to end the set 6-3.

Comeback

The former world number one raced to a 4-2 lead in the third set and had a point for 5-2 on serve, but Gilbert staged a minor comeback and forced the set to the tiebreaker.

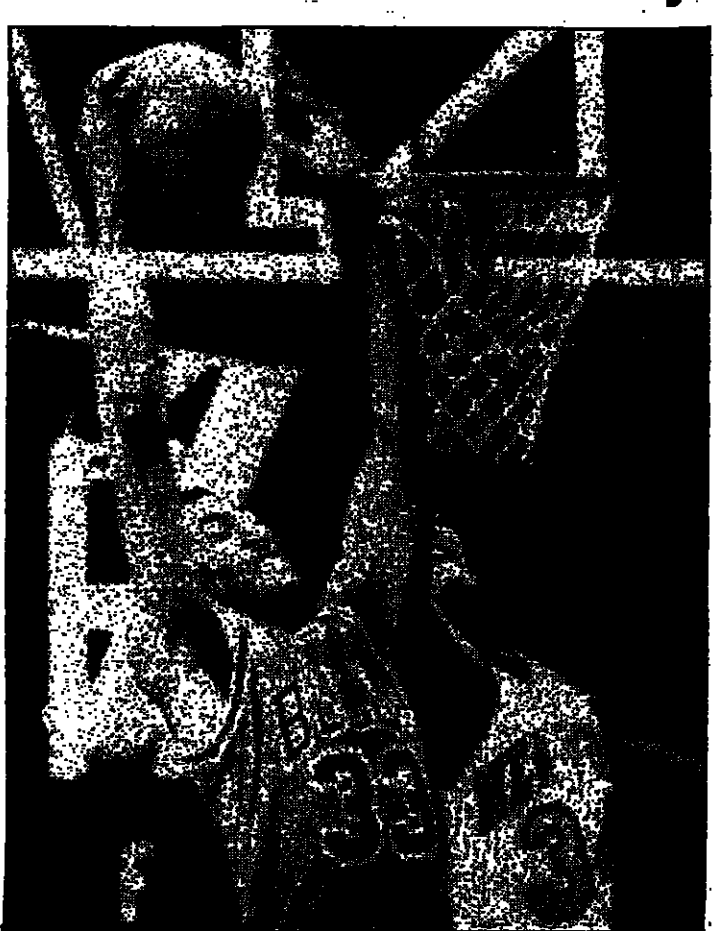
McEnroe capitalised on Gilbert's poor second serve and won the tiebreak 7-3 when Gilbert double faulted at matchpoint.

"Right now all I need is a bit of a break because I am tired after playing for seven weeks," said McEnroe after collecting his \$200,000 winner's check.



McEnroe holds up the WCT championship trophy (Reuters wirephoto)

Morris leads New Jersey Nets past Boston Celtics



Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen (left) fends off a challenge by Charles Oakley of the New York Knicks in the first half of their match. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEW YORK, March 5, (AP) — Rookie Chris Morris scored 20 points, including three free throws in the final minute last night, to lead the New Jersey Nets past the Boston Celtics 98-95 at East Rutherford, New Jersey, in National Basketball Association games.

Boston, which had its three-game winning streak stopped, trailed through most of the fourth quarter before rallying in the closing minutes behind Reggie Lewis and Dennis Johnson.

Bullets 119, Mavericks 105
In Landover, Maryland, Jeff Malone scored 11 of his 28 points during a 13-4 third-quarter surge to pace the Washington Bullets to their third straight triumph, 119-105 over the Dallas Mavericks.

With the Bullets ahead 75-70 with 4:49 left in the period, Malone scored nine straight Washington points, assisted on John Williams' basket and scored on a layup for an 88-74 cushion.

Knicks 122, Bulls 104
In New York, Rod Strickland had season highs of 20 points and 14 assists and Johnny Newman scored 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks beat Chicago 122-104 for their 23rd consecutive home victory.

Strickland, a rookie, made the first start of his career after Mark Jackson went on the injury list

with torn cartilage in his right knee.

Spurs 106, Nuggets 89
In San Antonio, San Antonio snapped its club-record 13-game losing streak as Frank Brickowski scored 15 of his 24 points in the second quarter of the Spurs' a 106-89 victory over Denver.

It was San Antonio's first win since Feb. 3, when the Spurs defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 106-101. Denver has lost all three of its games against San Antonio this season.

Suns 133, Clippers 91
In Phoenix, Armon Gilliam scored 25 points and Tom Chambers 23 as the Phoenix Suns won their eighth straight home game, beating Los Angeles 133-91 and handing the Clippers their 19th consecutive road loss.

Phoenix is now 27-4 at home this season and 21-0 here against Western Conference competition after the 42-point victory — one shy of the franchise's most lopsided win ever (142-99 over the New Orleans Jazz on Jan. 11, 1978).

Sonics 116, 76ers 104
In Seattle, Xavier McDaniel keyed a decisive 21-4 run in the first 6 minutes of the fourth quarter as Seattle defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 116-104.

The 76ers, who completed an eight-game road trip with a 3-5 record, trailed 83-80 after three periods.

Reggi suffers upset in Virginia Slims

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 5, (AP) — Unseeded Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands continued her string of upsets yesterday at the \$100,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament by eliminating No. 3 seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy in straight sets, 6-3 7-5.

Bollegraf will face No. 4 seed Leila Meshki of the Soviet Union in today's finals.

Bollegraf, who upset No. 2 seed Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union in the second round, wasted no time in getting untracked. She took the first four games of the first set and held on to close the set at 6-4.

Reggi looked strong in the beginning of the second set, breaking Bollegraf in the second game, but never came back from four consecutive double faults. She let Bollegraf back into the match in the second set as the Dutch player won the final three games to take the match.

"Winning the doubles last week in Wichita really helped me get prepared for this tournament. This is my first Virginia Slims final and I don't plan on changing one thing in my game," Bollegraf said. "I feel I am hitting the ball good and hard and I am as comfortable with my game today as when I had the big win (against Savchenko) earlier in the week."

Graf to meet Henricksson in US Hardcourt finals

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 5, (Reuters) — Top seed Steffi Graf of West Germany yesterday overcame freezing winds that played havoc with her service to reach the final of the \$200,000 US Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Despite losing her serve four times, the world number one ousted sixth-seeded Australian Hana Mandlikova 7-6 6-3 to set up a final today with unseeded American Ann Henricksson.

Henricksson reached her first primary circuit final by eliminating unseeded compatriot Katrina Adams 6-3 4-6 6-3.

Troubled

Graf, the tournament's defending champion, was more troubled by the 0-degree Celsius temperature and strong winds during the outdoor semifinal than by Mandlikova's play.

"I've never played in such cold, windy weather," said Graf, who raised her 1989 match record to 16-0.

"It was just difficult to play tennis. She was playing all right, but I don't count it as a regular match," the Grand Slam champion said of the one hour 24 minute contest.

But Graf had to work for that first set, in which she dropped her serve three times.

Mandlikova built leads of 2-0 and 4-2 in the opening set. But Graf countered with a pair of key breaks, the second with Mandlikova serving for the set at 5-4.

Mandlikova took an early lead in the tiebreak, but Graf levelled the score at 4-4 and ran off the final three points for the set.

Powering

Graf lost her serve once more in the second set before powering her way through the final three games from 3-3 with a strong volley game and her trademark rocket forehand.

"I just played some great volleys," said Graf. "But it was hard to play. You just don't get any rhythm."

Biasion wins second straight Portuguese rally

ESTORIL, Portugal, March 5, (Reuters) — World champion Massimo Biasion sped to his second straight victory yesterday in the Portuguese motor rally, but his feat was overshadowed by the death of a driver and the forced withdrawal of many top racers.

Biasion, who had led since the 11th of 37 special stages, coasted home to where the rally began last Tuesday with a comfortable 10 minute 18 second lead over works teammate Markku Alen of Finland.

Dominance

The Italian's victory marked the total dominance of the Lancia team, which took seven of the top 10 places, including the top three spots.

Alessandro Fiorio of Italy finished third at 23 minutes 18 seconds behind his compatriot.

Despite a flawless run by Biasion, the World Championship event was marred by one fatal accident and nagging mechanical mishaps. Only a third of the competitors made it to Estoril.

Portugal's August Mendes was killed on the second day when his Opel Kadett plunged down a mountain ravine. The 2,187-km event has been marked by accidents with four spectators killed in 1986 and 1987. Mendes was the first driver to die.

Some of the top drivers, including early leader Didier Auriol of France and Swedish veteran Bjorn Waldegaard who was driving the last Toyota in the rally, were forced to pull out because of mechanical faults.

Spaniard Carlos Sainz, also a front-runner in the early stages, wrapped his Toyota around a tree on the second day and withdrew although he was unhurt.

Alen, a popular figure in Portugal after his record five wins here, was also dogged by bad luck.

After winning three special stages on Friday and closing the gap with Biasion, he fell back more than four minutes with a faulty suspension and a lengthy skid.

Overall, Biasion won 15 special stages, Auriol took 11, Alen won seven and Sainz had three. Victory in the first special stage was shared by Biasion, Alen and Sainz and one stage was cancelled due to the poor condition of the stretch.

Yesterday's victory puts Biasion, who also won in Monte Carlo, in a commanding lead of the World Drivers Championship with 40 points, followed by Swede Ingvar Carlsson on 20 points. Alen, Auriol and Per Eklund of Sweden are tied for third place on 15 points.

Norwegian wins first skiing World Cup

FURANO, Japan, March 5, (AP) — Christian Ole Furuseth of Norway skied to his first World Cup race victory today, beating Italian star Alberto Tomba by 1.4 seconds in a men's slalom. "My first run was not so good as the snow was hard, but I skied well in the second run, although the gate positions were difficult," said the 22-year-old Furuseth, who had finished second in a giant slalom race at Furano on Friday.

Furuseth put together runs of 56.02 and 54.51 seconds for a total of one minute, 50.53 seconds.

Vertical

Tomba had a 1:51.92 total after runs of 57.13 and 54.79 on the 599-metre (1,977-foot) Furano Gondola course, which has a verticle drop of 194 metres (640 feet). The first run had 66 gates and the second 63.

Jonas Nilsson of Sweden was third in 1:51.93 and Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, this season's World Cup overall champion, was fourth in 1:51.95.

Last season, Tomba won six slaloms and three giant slalom races. This season, his sole victory so far came in a slalom at Madonna, Italy.

"I was always thinking that if my condition was good, I would be able to win anywhere," Furuseth said.

He said he started out in Nordic skiing, "our country's most

popular sport," but after five years, he switched to alpine skiing, his specialty for the last 10 years.

"Alpine is more fun," he said. In the World Cup standings, Furuseth's victory was worth 25 points, putting him fourth in the slalom standings with 86 and fifth in the overall standings with 143.

Standings

Girardelli stayed atop the slalom standing with 106, followed by Armin Bittner of West Germany with 102 and Tomba with 100.

Bittner finished eight in 1:52.86. Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, a distant second in the overall standings with 287 points to Girardelli's 407, finished 16th in slalom in 1:55.47 and did not gain any points. Tomba stood third overall with 177.

Felix McGrath of the United States finished fifth in 1:52.11, matching his previous best this season, a fifth in a slalom race at St. Anton, Austria, last Dec. 21.

Rudolf Nierlich of Austria, winner of Friday's giant slalom, fell in today's second run and did not finish.

Swedish star Ingemar Stenmark, who is retiring after the current series of World Cup slalom races in Japan, ran off the course and did not finish. Stenmark has a record 86 World Cup race victories in his career.

A field of 81 men and 65 women skiers from Austria, Argentina, West Germany, Canada, France, Britain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, the United States and Japan competed in Furano, on Hokkaido, Japan's northern island.

The World Cup circuit moves to Shiga Kogen, in central Japan, for the season's final legal, starting Wednesday.

In Tokyo, former Olympic skier Shinya Chiba of Japan beat Christian Schwaiger of Austria today in the final of the Japan open giant slalom, eighth of 10 dual race meets on Japan's professional ski circuit.

It was the 27-year-old Chiba's second straight victory in the series. He won the Onikoubetsu Cup race last week.

With times of 22.538 and 22.815 seconds, Chiba edged Schwaiger by 0.425 seconds in the first race and 0.101 seconds in the second race on the 410-metre (1,353-foot), 13-lap Nobeyama Highland course in Nagano, 180 kilometres (108 miles) northwest of Tokyo.

Chiba received first-prize money of one million yen (\$7,700) and Schwaiger received 450,000 yen (\$3,500).

Schwaiger beat fellow countryman Ewald Zirbsberger in the semifinals.

Finn wins women's World Cup competition

OSLO, Norway, March 5, (AP) — Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi of Finland won the women's first ever 2-by-10-kilometre World Cup competition in classic as well as free technique styles at the Holmenkollen Ski Festival in Nordic skiing yesterday.

Overall, Tamara Tikhonova of the Soviet Union and Anne Jahren of Norway were 13 and 13.1 seconds behind Kirvesniemi, the world champion in the 10k classic style at Lahti, Finland, two weeks ago.

Norway's 19-year-old champion, Trond Arne Elden, and compatriots Trond Arne Bredesen and Knut Arne Apeeland placed 1-2-3 in the men's Nordic combined of ski jumping and a 15k cross-country race final. Bredesen finished 26 seconds behind Elden and Apeeland was 1.4 minutes behind in the cross-country race.

Allar Levandi of the Soviet Union and Thomas Abratis of

East Germany tied for fourth, both 2:57 minutes behind the winner. Austria's Klaus Sulzenbacher placed sixth and Olympic champion Hippolyt Kempf of Switzerland seventh.

Norway's Vegard Ulvang took his second World Cup victory of the season by winning the men's classic style 50k event in a race where compatriot Terje Langli, the pace-setter with Ulvang for 40 kilometres, broke two poles and dropped to sixth place at the finish. Ulvang's winning time was two hours 17 minutes 39.9 seconds.

Gunde Svann of Sweden, the Olympic champion, triple world champion, undisputed World Cup winner and pre-race favourite, ran into a tree after 14 kilometres, injured his left arm but refused to abandon. He raced on, using only one arm and one pole, and finished 59th of 60 skiers, half an hour behind the winner. Svann has still to abandon a race.

Holger Bauroth of East Germany, only sixth halfway but on a comeback trail after a leg injury and operation earlier this season, finished strongly as the surprise runnerup in 2:18:03.7. He started one minute ahead of Ulvang and took advantage of keeping up with the Norwegian when Ulvang quickly caught up with him.

Torgny Mogren and Christer Majback defended Sweden's colours by placing third and fourth in 2:19:25.8 and 2:19:28.6.

Audun Endestad, the only American entered, finished 37th. The Norwegian-born racer, based in Anchorage, Alaska, was 10 minutes behind Ulvang.

Svann tops the World Cup with 170 points followed by Ulvang with 148, Norway's Paal Gunnar Mikkelsen, who placed 12th, is third with 130 points, and Mogren is fourth with 120. Vladimir Smirnov of the Soviet Union, fifth yesterday, has 71 points for fifth overall.

Cavite City clinch PBAK Non-Pro title

THE Cavite City (Chiquita) team won the PBAK Presidential Trophy and the PBAK Second Filipino Non-Pro title by a good margin last Friday, at Holiday Inn Hotel in the step-ladder games. Cavite City showed excellent team performance and individual talents when they defeated Caloocan City (Oriental-Magnolia Ice Cream), the defending champion with a score of 890-792.

The hero for the day was Pete Nierva who accumulated a 233 pinfalls to assure their winning streak followed by team captain Lando Caburao 186, Tony Lacson 170, vice-captain Rico Pino 162 and Mercy Laborce 139. Homer Mesina, Jesus Ventus, Ness Sogale, Pete Valisno, Redha Mansouri, team manager and Gil Herico assistant team manager are also their members.

Caloocan City (Oriental-Magnolia Ice Cream) won their first game in the final with a convincing mark of 814-763 against Valenzuela (Ambassador Stores Co.) team. The defending champion last year are composed of Eva Sabay 191, vice-captain Flor Tongson 183, Wally Flores 183, team captain Carl Baguida 142 and Willy Sabay 115. Ramzi Jabshet team manager, Roger Sabado, Beda Borja, George Gaerlan and Peping Ilagan are also their members.

Valenzuela (Ambassadors Stores Co.) team won their first outing in the step-ladder game against the determined team of Manila (Hatid Ligaya-Abughosh Int'l Phils Door to Door Service) with a mark of 893-800.

Valenzuela although new in the final games showed their



Cavite City team with their trophies and officials.

team cohesiveness throughout the game.

They were composed of Bhe Guisamo, Kassar Akkar, Jim Manslo, Jojo Medrano and Benjie Guisamo. Other members of the team were team captain Ernie Landrito, Joe Blog, Rolly Galicha, Jupai Rivera and Nashat Mohd.

While the Manila team (Hatid Ligaya-Abughosh Int'l Phils Door to Door Service) the first runner-up last year were composed of consistent bowlers Mansour Al Shatti, team captain Manny Inserto, Joel Bonocillo, Bobby Bautista and Arleen Bonocillo. Oje Olor, vice-captain, Bob Peek, Nafez Fauzi, Sarah Macarimbang, team manager

Tess Olor and Helen Inserto are also their members.

Sani Baker of Makati (Tectron Co.) who averages 165.5 captured the Rookie Bowler of the Year outpouring his nearest rival with a wide margin, while Rico Pino took away the Most Valuable Bowler award with a high average of 181.5.

Khalid P.M. Sharif, assistant manager of Dollaro Exchange Co. Ltd., made introductory remarks and said that they will support all PBAK activities in the future, while Chafic Haddad, executive assistant manager of Holiday Inn Hotel conveyed their commitments to all PBAK projects.

Outgoing president of PBAK

Manny Inserto in his welcome address expressed his sincerest gratitude to the sponsors, Dollaro Exchange Co. Ltd and Holiday Inn Hotel as well as the participating teams who made the competition a grand success. He also expressed his desire that the new officers of PBAK will continue this competition, Filipino Non-Pro by next year.

Richard Woolfson, recreation manager of Holiday Inn Hotel in his closing remarks expresses his sincerest thanks to all participating teams in joining the tournament and hope to see them again in the future.

The master of the ceremony was outgoing vice-president, Audit Homer Mesina.



Caloocan City, first runner-up of the bowling competition.



Valenzuela team, the second runner-up.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Forget wins

NANCY, France, March 5. (Reuters) Guy Forget of France, better-known for his exploits as a doubles player, won a singles tournament for the first time in more than two years when he beat Dutchman Michiel Schapers today.

Third seed Forget's 6-3 7-6 (7-5) victory over Schapers, seeded seven, in the final of the \$130,000 Lorraine Open grand prix was only the second singles triumph of his career. His previous title was also in France — in Toulouse in 1986.

World's best

AUCKLAND, March 5. (AP) New Zealand's Chrissie Pfitzinger was just over a second off setting a world's best time in a five-kilometre women's road race today.

Pfitzinger, 30, from Auckland, broke clear of Brenda Webb of the United States over the final kilometre to win in 15 minutes, 7 seconds.

Webb, who set the world's best time of 15:05.8 in Cincinnati in 1987, was second in 15:11, followed by New Zealand's Barbara Moore in 15:14 and Sylvia Mosqueda of the United States in 15:25.

Match cancelled

NICOSIA, March 5. (Reuters) A World Cup soccer qualifier between Iran and Thailand scheduled for today has been cancelled because the Thai team could not reach Tehran in time. Iran's official news agency IRNA said.

IRNA said yesterday the Iranian Football Federation announced that the Thai team had encountered "flight difficulties".

Iran beat Thailand 3-0 in their away match in Bangkok on Feb 23.

Zhao wins marathon

NAGOYA, Japan, March 5. (AP) China's Zhao Yufeng won her second consecutive Nagoya International Women's Marathon today with a time of 2 hours, 28 minutes and 20 seconds.

Zhao, 23, was followed by Marguerite Buist of New Zealand, who crossed the finish line at 2:29:09 before about 10,000 spectators at the Mizuho track and field stadium in Nagoya, central Japan.

Australians lead

TOKYO, March 5. (AP) An Australian yacht sailed by Nicola Green and Karen Davis won a short course event today and led the four-day international women's 470 class Yacht Championships.

The Australians, who placed sixth in the 1988 summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, beat 18 other yachts in the 500-metre race on the second day of the five-day competition. Yesterday's scheduled races were postponed because of a lack of wind.

Fighter in coma

LYON, France, March 5. (Reuters) Ivory Coast boxer David Thio was in a coma today after being knocked out during a bout against American super-lightweight Terence Alii. Hospital officials said.

WBC title

AOMORI, Japan, March 5. (Reuters) Defending champion Kim Yong-Kang of South Korea retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight boxing title in a points decision against Japanese opponent Yukihito "Leopard" Tamakuma.

The 24-year-old Kim was kept on his toes against the feisty Tamakuma throughout the scheduled 12-round bout in the northern Japanese city.

Inter extend lead over Napoli

ROME, March 5. (Reuters) A goal by Nicola Bertoni enabled Internazionale Milan to stretch their lead in the Italian first division to three points today.

They beat Verona 1-0 while their nearest rivals Napoli were held to a goalless draw by lowly Pescara who they had beaten 8-2 when they last met in the league.

Berti's goal, from a cross by Argentine forward Ramon Diaz in the 58th minute, was one of the few high points of an uneventful game.

With strikers Careca, who replaced Francesco Romano early in the second half, and Andrea Carnevale below their best and Argentine captain Diego Maradona tightly marked throughout by Brazilian midfielder Junior, Napoli had a frustrating afternoon.

They ended the day with 31 points to Inter's 34.

O'MALLEY LOSES IN PLAYOFF

James wins Dubai Desert Golf Classic

DUBAI, March 5. (AP) Mark James of England won the \$41,660 (\$72,000) first prize in the Karl Litten Overseas Desert Classic today after a playoff with Australian Peter O'Malley.

The pair finished four rounds even at 11-under-par 277.

England's Paul Broadhurst, finished third with a nine under par 280.

Wedged

The sudden death playoff started at the par-4 17th. James, the reigning Spanish Open champ, wedged his second shot to within six feet of the hole. O'Malley's shot landed 12 feet from the hole.

O'Malley, who had sunk a similar birdie putt at the same hole in the final round, could not repeat the stroke and had to watch as James calmly holed his six-footer for the win.

O'Malley, who hails from New South Wales, won his highest prize so far on the European Professional Golf Association tour — £27,760 (\$48,500), in addition to clinching his European tour card. The 23-year-old Australian took part in the classic, the second event of

this year's European PGA tour, at the invitation of the organisers.

"I'm very disappointed but also delighted to get into this position," said O'Malley after the play-off. "And if every week on the European tour will be like this, I'll do well."

"Now that I've got my card, I might as well stay with the tour," added O'Malley who flies next week to be the best man for a friend's wedding in Sydney.

Third success

James said it was his third success in five play-offs. "It was a little tense at the play-off but it was no more than normal. Somebody has to win and somebody has to lose," he said.

Speaking about his four-under-par 68 today to catch O'Malley, the Englishman said: "I played exceptionally well for the first 12 holes." O'Malley, who led the field on the Emirates Golf Club course after three rounds, scored 70 today.

Broadhurst also experienced his biggest payday in his fourth event as a professional. He shot an even-par 72 today and won

£15,650 (\$25,800).

"I played pretty well but kept leaving myself on the wrong side of the flag. None of the putts seemed to drop," he said.

Saying that he started nervously, the 23-year-old Englishman added: "But I handled the pressure well."

Sweden's Magnus Persson, who was fourth after three rounds was caught by Australian Brett Ogle who fired a 69 today for a total of 282 compared to the Swede's 283. Persson shot 72.

Ian Woosnam of Wales, one of the top money earners on the circuit and the pre-tournament favourite, managed only a miserable 75 today for an eight-over par 296 to end tied for 58th with five others.

The Emirates Course, an island of green in the desert bordering the Gulf, is the only all-grass championship golf course in the Arab Middle East.

Scores

Leading final round scores in the Desert Classic Golf Tournament. (British unless stated): 277 Mark James 69 68 72 68, Peter O'Malley (Australia) 71 68 68 70

(James won after playoff at first extra hole)

280 Paul Broadhurst 72 66 70 72

282 Brett Ogle (Australia) 77 69 67

69

283 Magnus Persson (Sweden) 67

72 72

284 Barry Lane 71 73 73 67

Emmanuel Dussart (France) 71 71 72

70, Jim Rutledge (Canada) 72 70 70

71, Mike Miller 72 74 67 71, Sam

Torrance 70 71 71 72

285 Gordon J. Brand 77 68 70 70

Dennis Durnan 75 69 68 73

286 Anders Soerensen (Denmark)

70 71 72 73

287 Stephen McAllister 73 74 73

67, David Feherly 72 73 70, Jean

Van De Velde (France) 76 72 67 72

Alberto Binaghi (Italy) 68 74 71 74

Joe Higgins 70 72 70 75

288 Howard Clark 74 69 76 69, Des

Smyth (Ireland) 70 72 75 71, Peter

Baker 71 74 72 71, Steen Tinning

(Denmark) 66 73 74 75, Gordon

Brand Jr. 71 71 71 75

289 Robin Mann 74 73 76 66, Martin

Poxon 72 71 77 69, Ronan Rafferty

72 77 69, Vincente Fernandes

(Argentina) 75 74 69 71, David

Williams 68 72 76 73

290 Grant Turner 73 73 76 68, Paul

Carroll 73 72 73, Eugene Elliott

(US) 71 75 71 73, John Slaughter

(US) 76 70 70 74, Philip Walton

(Ireland) 70 76 70 74, Anders Fors-

brand (Sweden) 71 71 71 77

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